Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Officials Arrive for Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Kuwait's Al-Ahmad Arrives

LD2005201689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1849 GMT 20 May 89

[By Faisal al-Zayd and Adnan Nayfeh]

[Text] Casablanca, May 20 KUNA—Kuwait Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and the accompanying delegation arrived here today to take part in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting preceding the Arab summit.

Shaykh Sabah will also preside over a meeting for the Arab League's six-man committee on Lebanon to prepare a report on the committee's works and contacts.

Shaykh Sabah, in an arrival statement, told reporters that current circumstances dictated holding of such Arab meetings.

Expressing hope the emergency Arab summit, called for by King Hassan, would be crowned with success. [sentence as received]

Kuwait, he added, always took part in the Arab decision making in consolidation of Arab solidarity.

On the other hand, diplomatic sources said the Arab committee on Lebanon would not be able to convene its meeting scheduled for today due to late arrival of some ministers who are members of the committee.

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives

JN2105072689 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0400 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said: We feel that the emergency Arab summit bears a large and historic responsibility in relation to the Lebanese tragedy, with all the dangerous threats entailed in that tragedy.

In a statement to the media team of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information upon his arrival in Casablanca at dawn today, Tariq 'Aziz added: The Arab summit must tackle this tragedy seriously, courageously, and in a straightforward manner. Otherwise, pan-Arab security will be exposed to numerous dangers as a result of the exacerbation of the situation in this Arab country.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: Iraq will contribute effectively and actively to this summit, as it did in previous Arab summits, in order to tackle the substantive issues facing the Arab nation at present.

'Aziz added: We have the Palestinian issue with its important developments and the threats, maneuvers, and attempts to abort this issue, as well as the great gains realized by the daring and successful political and diplomatic initiatives launched by the PLO leadership.

The foreign minister went on to say: We also have the situation between Iraq and Iran and in the Arabian Gulf region. A cease-fire has been in force for several months. However, Iran has not yet displayed a desire or a willingness to achieve a comprehensive and durable peace.

'Aziz said: We have held five rounds of negotiations with the Iranian side. However, these rounds of negotiations have not yielded any results, as the other side has neither the political will nor the ability to proceed with serious negotiations seeking the realization of a comprehensive and durable peace between the two countries and in the region.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: These are our files, which are the files of all Arab states and the major topics to be tackled in this summit, which we view as historic. On this occasion, we highly value the initiative taken by His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco in calling for this summit.

Tariq 'Aziz said: The talk about the summit will remain the realm of the summiteers. We as foreign ministers are tasked with preparing and helping make this summit a success.

INA has learned that the Arab foreign ministers' conference will be held this evening to prepare the agenda of the Arab summit due to be held the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

In another statement to Moroccan television to be aired this evening, Tariq 'Aziz said: Iraq will effectively and actively participate in this summit as it has serious, sincere, and constructive contributions to make regarding all issues that will be discussed.

On the Palestinian issue, the foreign minister said: This issue has reached a very important stage. The Arab states must take a clear and strong position in support of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and the political efforts made by the PLO and Palestinian state leadership during the past few months. Despite the progress made and the great successes scored in favor of the Palestinian issue, it is now the target of conspiracies, maneuvers, and pressures that must be confronted by a collective Arab effort.

On the situation in Lebanon, Tariq 'Aziz said: This Arab country is being exposed to threats that jeopardize pan-Arab security. This situation might result in the fragmentation and loss of sovereignty by this Arab state, despite the fact that it is a founding member state of the Arab League.

The deputy prime minister affirmed: Now, as Arabs, we will have no excuse if we say that there is nothing that we can do. We must shoulder our responsibilities in relation to Lebanon and adopt the resolutions dictated by pan-Arab responsibility.

On the situation between Iraq and Iran, he pointed out that the two sides have not so far made any progress in the negotiations and that Iran has not so far demonstrated a readiness to realize a comprehensive and durable peace. In this regard, he said: The Arab nation, in this summit of its leaders, must say its word on this issue, particularly at this point in time.

The INA team in Casablanca has learned that the Arab foreign ministers' conference will be held this evening to prepare the agenda of the summit, which will begin its meetings the day after tomorrow, Tuesday. Most Arab foreign ministers arrived in Casablanca yesterday and last night. The remaining ministers are expected to arrive there this morning so that the foreign ministers' conference can be held.

Syria's Al-Shar' Arrives

JN2105053789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Casablanca—Meetings of the Arab foreign ministers will begin in Casablanca today to prepare for the emergency Arab summit conference.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Casablanca at 2200 yesterday to attend the Arab foreign ministers meeting. Al-Shar' was received at the airport by Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Abdellatif Filali, senior Foreign Affairs Ministry officials, and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Rabat.

In an arrival statement to reporters, Al-Shar' said: First of all, I would like to voice our satisfaction over our presence in this fraternal country and over the holding of the summit in Casablanca. We hope that this summit will produce the desired results which would affirm Arab solidarity and the Arab nation's ability to defend its fateful issues.

Jordan's Al-Qasim Arrives

JN2105055089 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The deputy prime minister and the foreign minister, Mr Marwan al-Qasim, arrived in Casablanca, Morocco early today. Mr al-Qasim will lead Jordan's delegation to meetings of the Arab foreign ministers later today to set the agenda for the emergency Arab summit due to convene on Tuesday.

In an arrival statement, the foreign minister said he hoped the summit would take resolutions leading to more cooperation and coordination in various sectors among Arab countries.

Also today, Mr Al-Qasim will participate in meetings of the six-member Arab League committee on Lebanon.

The foreign minister was received upon arrival by the Moroccan foreign minister, Mr 'Abdellatif Filali, and a number of senior officials.

Qatar's Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Arrives

JN2105074389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 20 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Casablanca this evening to attend the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers due to begin here tomorrow, Sunday, to prepare for the meetings of the Arab summit, which will begin its work on Tuesday.

The Qatari minister was welcomed on arrival by Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; and 'Ali Muftah, Qatari ambassador to Morocco.

Yemeni, Egyptian, Iraqi Meet

JN2105191789 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member, today met in Casablanca with Brother Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. During the meeting, they discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and the arrangements for convening the Arab summit.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad Haydar [as heard], our country's ambassador to Tunisia and permanent representative to the Arab League.

In a related event, a meeting was held today in Casablanca among Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They discussed issues related to the coming meetings of the Arab foreign ministers in preparation for the emergency Arab summit conference.

Lebanon's 'Awn Reportedly To Attend Arab Summit

LD2005170489 Tripoli JANA in English 1400 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Mai 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—JANA has learnt, from reliable Arab sources, that Michel 'Awn decided to go to Rabat to attend the Arab summit although King Hassan II of Morocco did not extend any invitation to any of the two governments in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Ambassador in Brussels asserted that King Hassan will not receive 'Awn and that we [as received] will leave on the aircraft which he arrives on.

King Urges 'Awn, Al-Huss Presence

NC2205083089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] REUTER today cited diplomatic sources as saying that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and General Miche' 'Awn might receive invitations to hold talks with Arab leaders during the Arab summit conference in Casablanca.

The sources added that King Hassan II of Morocco is trying to sound out the views of the Arab leaders on such an invitation. Meanwhile, the king affirmed that the presence of Prime Minister al-Huss and General 'Awn will provide an excellent opportunity to resolve the Lebanese problem.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali yesterday expressed hope that the presence of the Lebanese parties will help to find a suitable formula to remedy the problem.

Preparatory Meeting for Emergency Summit Held

Egypt's Return Welcomed

LD2105224189 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Arab foreign ministers, who began their preparatory meeting for the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca this evening, have welcomed Egypt, which was represented at this meeting by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, in its return to the Arab League. The first meeting opened today with a speech by Mr Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation and chairman of the meeting. He began by expressing the Arab countries' welcome for the return of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Arab League and the participation of its foreign minister, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, at this historic meeting. He added that Egypt's resumption of its full Arab League membership will contribute to the consolidation of joint cooperation in such a way that will bring about glory and prosperity to the Arab nation.

This was received with applause from those delegations present at the meeting. Afterward, Mr Abdellatif Filali reviewed the circumstances in which the emergency Arab summit conference is going to be held, pointing out the developments in the Palestinian problem at the level of the Palestinian people's struggle and at the level of Arab and international politics. He also pointed out the efforts under way to resolve the Lebanese problem within the framework of the Arab six-man committee, stressing that Morocco will continue to support Lebanon's unity and sovereignty and reject any interference in its internal affairs. He also asserted that the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran has revived hopes for a just and lasting peace in the region.

For his part, the Arab League general secretary reviewed the situation being witnessed by the Arab nation which is looking forward to some positive results from the emergency Arab summit conference, thanks to the efforts and patronage of His Majesty King Hassan II, who does not spare any effort to serve the issues of the Arab nation and guarantee the means for its glory.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid addressed the meeting and stressed that Egypt's return to the Arab League makes it very happy to shoulder all accruing responsibilities in accordance with the Arab League's charter. He added that Egypt did not and will not abandon its Arab responsibilities; it will always be faithful to its nation and will always be looking after its interests.

Egyptian 'Star' of Meeting

JN2205063389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 22 May 89

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Casablanca]

[Text] Casablanca now constitutes the emblem of accord and reconciliation with the arrival of the leaders and the kings today to attend the summit of the return of Arab awareness and the realization of the momentous threats and challenges. Egypt's return to the Arab League and to all of its institutions took place yesterday in a historic moment permeated with effusive Arab feelings. Applause resounded in the conference hall, and the ministers vied with one another to deliver statements welcoming and congratulating the Egyptian foreign minister, who became the star of the meeting.

Syria participated in this splendid Arab production. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered a statement at the Arab foreign ministers conference in which he welcomed Egypt's return. Al-Shar' affirmed to our radio that President al-Asad is on his way to the summit. He also did not rule out an Egyptian-Syrian summit meeting. As for Libya, it was absent from this Arab festival. Lebanon, embroiled in its crisis, was also absent.

The ministers decided to adopt as official documents of the summit the speeches welcoming Egypt's return, which took place in accordance with the nation's will as the Moroccan foreign minister said, as well as the Egyptian foreign minister's speech in which he affirmed that Egypt will abide by its commitments in accordance with the Arab League charter.

The ministerial conference then began to discuss the Palestinian problem on the basis of two working papers, one Syrian and the other Palestinian. It was agreed to refer these two papers to a formulation committee that will meet this morning to draw up a unified recommendation to be submitted to the summit. Syria and Egypt are members of this committee.

The Syrian paper refers to the mobilization of Arab political, economic, and military potentials to confront the Israeli enemy. The paper affirmed support for the Palestinian position, which rejects the Israeli Government's plan, and affirmed the need to end the occupation and place the occupied territories under temporary UN supervision to enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination. Syria also expressed its desire to participate in the five-member Arab committee that will coordinate positions and prepare for the international conference.

The Palestinian working paper reiterated the Palestinians' rejection of any political settlement that does not include unconditional and complete withdrawal, the right to self-determination, and the establishment of the state.

All indications confirm that a Syrian-Egyptian summit will be held in Casablanca. The opportunities are there for the resumption of normal relations, as Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has told our radio. The Egyptian foreign minister affirmed the importance of close Arab relations even if some differences in viewpoint exist. This will be confirmed by President Husni Mubarak in his speech at the summit on Tuesday.

[Begin recording] [Tawfiq] How can you describe today's session?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe this session is a historic session in view of the speeches delivered by all the delegations, including the Syrian foreign minister. The Syrian foreign minister has congratulated Egypt. This is something that makes us happy.

[Tawfiq] How will this influence Syrian-Egyptian relations?

['Abd al-Majid] This shows that there are opportunities for the resumption of normal relations. This, in itself, is in in the interest of the Arab causes and the Arab moves.

[Tawfiq] Can we expect an Egyptian-Syrian summit?

['Abd al-Majid] Everything is possible, Huda. [end recording]

Commission on Lebanese Question

LD2105184989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The Arab League six-man committee on Lebanon ended its session in Casablanca this morning by issuing a press statement. Here are the details:

The ministerial committee entrusted with the Lebanese question ended the meeting which it held this morning under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait. The Arab League secretary general, Mr Cnedli Klibi, attended.

At the end of the meeting, which lasted for more than 3 hours, a press statement was issued that pointed out that the ministerial committee entrusted with the Lebanese question had looked into the elements of its mission and put them in its report. The statement also pointed out that the committee would hold a second session in order to carry out the final preparation of this report.

Mr Lakhdar Ibrahimi, the Arab League assistant secretary general, stated that during the meeting agreement was reached on securing a respite for the Lebanese and ending the shelling of civilian targets. He said:

[Begin Ibrahimi recording] The agreement on hand is for a partial cease-fire, because we were not able to ensure agreement by all the parties to fully implement the Arab League resolution. What we have done is to end the shelling of civilian targets and secured a relative respite for the citizens in Lebanon. This is the situation, and before I leave you I will say that I hope that this situation will continue until the summit. [end recording]

Jordan's Al-Qasim on Agenda

JN2205055289 Amman Domestic Service in English 0430 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Arab Foreign Ministers Council today endorsed the agenda of the emergency Arab summit, which opens its sessions in Casablanca, Morocco, tomorrow. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Marwan al-Qasim, said in a statement to the JORDAN NEWS AGENCY that the agenda comprises three items: the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran situation, and the Lebanese crisis.

Mr al-Qasim yesterday addressed the preliminary foreign ministers session, in which he welcomed the return of Egypt to the Arab League. He said the Palestinian cause, the popular uprising, and the Israeli oppressive measures against citizens in the occupied territories are at top of the summit agenda. The foreign minister added that the Arab League countries should support Iraqi efforts to achieve peace with Iran. He stressed the necessity of Iran's acceptance of peace requirements through the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

Speaking about the Lebanese crisis, Mr al-Qasim said the Casablanca historic summit meeting should result in a final settlement to this crisis. He said all efforts should be exerted regionally and internationally to save Lebanon and end its problems.

Summit Agenda Discussed

JN2205104689 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, May. 22, INA—The Arab summit conference in Casablanca will tackle three major issues namely, the Palestine issue and means of backing the uprising, the Arab-Zionist conflict, the Lebanese crisis and the situation between Iraq and Iran.

The Arab foreign ministers ended a meeting here that continued until late last night during which they discussed the summit agenda. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, speaking at the meeting, said return of Egypt to the Arab League was a big historic event in the life of the League and the Arab nation.

The ministers endorsed a proposal by Mr. 'Aziz on considering speeches by the conference chairman and League secretary general on Egypt's resumption of full membership into the League as documents of the conference and the Arab summit.

Commenting on a draft resolution submitted by the Arab League on the situation between Iraq and Iran, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz stressed that Iraq was after a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

He added that Iraq wants from its Arab brethren to back its call upon international bodies to exert efforts for releasing prisoners of war and returning them to their homelnds immediately in implementation to the Third Geneva Agreement of 1949 and Security Council's Resolution No 598.

Mr. 'Aziz pointed out that five rounds of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations yielded no results leading to enforcing peace between the two sides.

At their conference last night, Arab foreign ministers reviewed a working paper submitted by the delegation of the State of Palestine.

The Palestinian working paper calls upon the Arab summit to extend support to the political stances and decisions adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organization since the last session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers last year.

The paper also urges for implementing resolutions of the (PNC) concerning backing the Palestinian uprising.

The Palestinian paper proposed holding a meeting of concerned countries with the international conference for peace in the Middle East namely Egypt, Jordan Syria, Lebanon and Egypt to prepare for the international conference.

It also called for setting up an Arab committee under the chairmanship of King Hassan II of Morocco and membership of some Arab leaders or their representatives to follow up activity on the international arena to secure success of the Palestinian political initiative.

The Arab foreign minister last night completed discussion of topics included on the agenda of the emergency Arab summit opening tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Syria Presents Paper

JN2205071289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca—The Arab foreign ministers concluded their preparatory meeting for the emergency Arab summit late last night after endorsing an amendment presented by the Syrian delegation to the first article on the agenda related to the Palestine question. The amendment calls for adding support for the initifadah [uprising] and the Arab-Israeli conflict so that the title of this article will become: The Palestine Question, Support for the Intifadah, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

The Palestinian delegation presented a paper on the Palestine question.

The Syrian paper also presented a working paper on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper concentrates on achieving a complete and comprehensive withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory, particularly Jerusalem, and regaining the inalienable national rights of the Arab Palestinian people, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of their independent state in Palestine.

The Syrian working paper also affirms the need to mobilize Arab political, military, economic, and cultural potentials to confront the Israeli enemy and its expansionist schemes. The Syrian paper also affirms the need to work toward comprehensive parity with the Israeli enemy and to present material and moral support and aid to the continuous heroic struggle being waged by the Arab people in occupied Palestine, Golan, and Southern Lebanon in confronting the Israeli occupation.

The Syrian paper also rejects any political settlement of the conflict that does not guarantee the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation from all occupied Arab territory.

The Syrian paper calls for holding a UN-sponsored international peace conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, to achieve a comprehensive, just peace.

The Syrian paper calls for supporting the intifadah and for making available the methods of its continuation until the achievement of its objectives represented by ending the Israeli occupation. The Syrian paper also calls for supporting the national resistance in Southern Lebanon in its struggle against the Israeli occupation.

The Arab foreign ministers' council decided to form a miniformulation committee on the level of the foreign ministers to study the two papers and to present the results of its study to the summit.

Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Leadership Calls For Killing Israelis

JN2005173189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] A pamphlet has been distributed in East Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories saying that the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [uprising] calls on citizens to kill an Israeli soldier or a Jewish settler for each Palestinian killed in the intifadah. The Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah has also denounced Washington's support for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan on the occupied territories, and described this support as a conspiracy.

PLO Denies Revenge Appeal

NC2205125589 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tunis, May 22 (AFP)—A senior PLO official Monday said the organization would continue its "peaceful" struggle against Israeli occupation, adding that the official text of a Palestinian communique over the weekend makes no appeal for revenge killings of Israelis.

PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman was speaking after the publication in Jerusalem Sunday of communique Number 40 from the clandestine Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

The statement called on Palestinians "to execute an Israeli soldier or settler for each martyr of our people" in the occupied territories, where residents are staging an uprising against Israeli military occupation.

But Mr 'Abd al-Rahman on Monday asserted that the official text, which has not yet been released at Palestine Liberation Organization Headquarters here, contains "absolutely no appeal for the execution of a soldier or settler for each Palestinian martyr" killed in the uprising.

He said the text received by certain correspondents in Jerusalem may have been a rough draft.

"The intifadah (uprising) will continue its peaceful, democratic and popular struggle to put an end to Israeli occupation and to create an independent Palestinian state," Mr 'Abd al-Rahman declared.

The Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza, he added, will continue the struggle using "popular force to confront Israeli repression."

He noted that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced in Baghdad on Saturday that PLO policy was against the use of firearms in the territories.

Fatah Group Claims Bayt Awla Operation

JN1905171689 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1618 GMT 19 May 89

[Military communique issued by "The Palestine National Liberation Movement-Fatah, the General Command of Al-'Asifah Forces, Forces of the Interior" on 19 May 1989]

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries from Martyr Jamal Khalil al-Qumayz group, which operates inside occupied Palestine, succeeded at dawn on Friday, 19 May 1989, in mounting a major surprise attack with machineguns and hand grenades on a Zionist military unit consisting of three armed vehicles on patrol duty along Nuba-Bayt Awla road, west of the city of Hebron.

Our heroic revolutionaries waged a fierce 2-hour battle with the members of the Zionist enemy patrol, during which they destroyed the three enemy vehicles and killed or wounded all their occupants, forcing the enemy to call urgently for help and ambulances.

Enemy helicopters rushed to the scene immediately and began evacuating the killed and wounded. Major military reinforcements also arrived under the so-called commander of the Central Command and his deputy chief of staff. They supervised the search operations at the battle scene and in several nearby villages in an attempt to find our fighters, three of whom were lost in the battle. The remaining members of our group returned safely to their bases.

The enemy has reported the operation and acknowledged that an enemy soldier, a sergeant, was killed and seven others, including a colonel, were wounded.

The Fatah Provisional Command [al-qiyadah al-mu'aqqatah li harakat Fatah], while affirming that military operations against the Zionist enemy will continue, warns the enemy against harming the masses of our people in the occupied territory. It also warns those agents who cooperate with the enemy of the consequences of their treachery: The heroes of our revolution are lying in wait for them. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The General Command of Al-'Asifah Forces, the Forces of the Interior

[Dated] 19 May 1989

Further on Bayt Awla 'Battle'

JN1905174089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] In a splendid heroic battle between our valiant strugglers and the forces of the Zionist-U.S. enemy in the village of Bayt Awla in the Hebron District, three of the heroes of the sweeping popular uprising have succeeded in liquidating two Zionist soldiers.

The three strugglers were martyred. They are: hero martyr Ibrahim Tunayzi, 35, from Nuba village, Hebron District; and hero martyr Subhi al-Kafafi, 30, from Idnah village, Hebron District. The name of the third hero martyr is not yet known. He was from the village of Surif, Hebron District.

'Arafat Reiterates Policy

NC2005191589 Paris AFP in English 1858 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, May 20 (AFP)—PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat declared Saturday that the organization's policy against the use of firearms in the occupied territories remained in force.

The statement came after a shootout Friday that left three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier dead.

But Mr 'Arafat, at a press conference here, warned that "patience has its limits."

"The non-recourse to arms is a decision by the Palestinian command and is still respected by the Palestinian masses," he asserted.

He said the clash with automatic weapons and grenades in the West Bank community of Bayt Awla, which also left six soldiers wounded, "was a reaction by several youngsters against an Israeli patrol that was trying to search homes and innocent people." [passage omitted]

'Arafat Holds Baghdad News Conference 20 May

JN2005155189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 20 May 89

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (WAKH)—President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine has held the United States responsible for the growing number of massacres perpetrated by Israeli forces against Palestinians in the occupied land. He urged action by world opinion and international organizations to bring the atrocities to an immediate halt.

'Arafat told a news conference at the Palestinian Embassy in Baghdad at noon today that Shamir and Rabin and their cohorts are out to terrorize our people and bring them to their knees in order to coerce them into accepting the parody of elections in the occupied territory.

In light of this savage Israel escalation, 'Arafat added, the Palestinian leadership will consider devising a plan of appropriate action for the fifth phase [as received] of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied land.

The meetings of the Palestinian leadership are to be held after the emergency Arab summit set to convene in Morocco, the PLO chief said.

The Palestinian leader told Arab and world reporters that four children were shot dead by Israeli gunfire this morning.

Citing the latest reports from the occupied land, 'Arafat said 16 people have been murdered and over 250 injured in the past 96 hours. Over the same period, there have been approximately 1,200 arrests including leading cadres, among them Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders. The arrests, he noted, include Shaykh Ahmad Yasin of Hamas.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat described Zionist enemy Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he will use all methods to confront the intifadah as an impertinent threat and said that the whole world called upon to stop these crimes and massacres against our people, children, and women.

'Arafat announced that work is continuing in the United Nations to convene an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to denounce these crimes.

'Arafat noted that instructions were issued last night to the Palestinian UN mission and to Palestinian ambassadors in Moscow, Paris, London, and Beijing to discuss this serious situation with the four governments in their capacity as permenent members of the Security Council.

'Arafat did not rule out the possibility that the U.S. Administration will again use the veto to protect Israel's crimes. He said that the U.S. Administration recently blocked a statement condemning Israel at a time when the whole world, through various organizations and bodies, rushed to denounce Israel's savage practices against the Palestinian people.

'Arafat asked the extraordinary Arab summit, which is due to convene in Morocco next Tuesday [23 May], to approve a quadripartite plan on the Palestinian question. 'Arafat pointed out that this plan provides for extending practical, real support for the intifadah by every available means and for implementing resolutions issued by the Algiers summit, known as the intifadah summit, especially with regard to material support, a pledge which only some Arab states have honored. The plan also stipulates a plan of action on the international level in two directions: The first is by forming a committee chaired by the summit's chairman to campaign on the international level for support for the Palestinian initiative, which is a followup to the Arab peace plan approved by the Arab leaders at the 1982 Fes Arab summit; and the second by coordination among the five states that will participate in the international conference; namely, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine.

'Arafat added that the plan also stipulates action to stop Israel's crimes and the worsening massacres against the Palestinian masses in the occupied territory, with a special emphasis on efforts to approve an international force to protect the Palestinian people.

The plan also calls for action to convene the international conference as quickly as possible, especially as all the socialist states have approved the convocation of this international conference, including the USSR and the PRC. The European group, including France and the UK, has also approved the conference, especially France and French President Mitterrand, in addition to the approval of the nonaligned states, the Islamic and African states, and the Organization of Islamic Conference. However, the United States is still stalling, making flimsy excuses and pretexts to prevent the holding of the conference.

'Arafat asked why the U.S. Administration approves elections under Israeli occupation and wondered: Is this the American democracy? Are the massacres against our people the democracy which they are now entrenching to pave the way for elections?

'Arafat also asked: How could the United States approve a formula for the Namibian people's self-determination and evade the question of approving the same formula for the Palestinian people?

'Arafat voiced his deep regret for the U.S. Administration's approval of the Shamir-Rabin election plan, which he described as a conspiracy. He said that it is regrettable that the U.S. Administration does not deal with Palestine and Israel evenhandedly.

He said that at a time when Washington is announcing its support of Shamir's plan, and coordinating with the Israeli Government on the highest level, it refuses even to denounce the massacres that Israel is perpetrating against the Palestinian people.

The PLO leader pointed out that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is still at its minimum level. He said that the U.S. side has not so far replied to the Palestinian initiative or to questions posed by the PLO delegation. He added: We will continue to try to develop this dialogue despite the fact that the U.S. Administration exploits the dialogue to obscure the issue and to satisfy some of its friends in the region.

Yasir 'Arafat said that U.S. opinion in particular, and world opinion in general should not allow the Israeli massacres to continue, to leave the Palestinian people alone to confront them, or to allow a news blackout on the massacres, particularly in the United States.

He added that the PLO has several plans to deal with developments in the occupied territories. He said: We still have many arrows in our quiver. There is the fifth stage, the stage of a comprehensive strike. There is also the sixth stage, the stage of comprehensive national disobedience. There are also the seventh and eighth stages. However, I will not disclose the contents of these two stages now. He pointed out that the incident at Bayt Awla yesterday was a reaction by Palestinian youths to the practices of Israeli patrols, which attempted to search houses and innocent people there.

The Palestinian leader warned the world about the Israeli occupation authorities' plan to starve the Palestinian camps, cities, and villages, particularly in the Gaza Strip. He denounced the bad living and health conditions in the Gaza Strip. He said that there are dangers posed to the Palestinian citizens, particularly after the occupation authorities adopted measures to suffocate the Gaza Strip, impose a siege on it, deprive it of all forms of aid, and prevent workers from doing their jobs with the objective of starving them. He said: In light of this, I ask the United States if starvation is included in the democratic plan to impose elections?

Throughout his news conference, 'Arafat was following developments in the occupied territories to acquaint himself with the latest reports, which revealed that confrontation has escalated between the Palestinian people and the occupation authorities. He paused from time to time to read the names of the wounded and martyrs, most of whom are children under 8, 10, and 12 years old.

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO supports the formation of an Arab military force, as in the 1976 summit [not further identified] to assist Lebanon. He said: We Palestinians are ready to take part in this force using our forces outside Lebanon or in southern Lebanon. He stressed a military observer force will not suffice, but rather a military force that has the power to deal with the indisciplined parties in Lebanon. He added that the Palestinian delegation to the emergency Arab summit will request this with the objective of achieving security for the Lebanese people and safeguarding Lebanon's territorial integrity and the unity of its people and institutions.

'Arafat warned that the Israeli conspiracy, especially after enemy Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced it, plans to move the green line between Lebanon and the Israeli entity to the Al-Tin valley, 38 km from the Litani River, just as before Israel imposed its control over this area. It plans to deport 350,000 Palestinians to the Al-Biqa' area in northern Lebanon as a prelude to moving them to Jordan, to deport Lebanese citizens from the Shi'ite sect from southern Lebanon to Al-Biqa' to pave the way for demographic changes in both Lebanon and Syria, and to establish sectarian cantons in the rest of Lebanon, particularly a Druze canton as a buffer zone.

Concluding his news conference, 'Arafat said: Just imagine: In addition to the massacres that are being perpetrated in the occupied territories, there are 350,000 Palestinians under threat of expulsion from southern Lebanon to unknown destinations.

Further on News Conference

JN2005172889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has appealed to the world opinion, the United Nations, and international organizations immediately to intervene to stop the Zionist occupation forces' hideous crimes against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

At a news conference today attended by Arab and foreign news agencies correspondents, he said that the Palestine mission to the United Nations was instructed to request an urgent meeting for the UN Security Council to discuss the brutal crimes that are being perpetrated against children, old people, and women in the occupied Arab territories.

Yasir 'Arafat added that he has instructed Palestinian ambassadors to the UN Security Council permanent member states to follow up developments of the situation and to coordinate with these states' governments to prevent the Zionist entity from continuing to murder children, old people, and women in defiance of world opinion and international norms.

He pointed out that during the past 4 days, cities, villages, and camps in the occupied territories experienced massacres whose victims include 20 martyrs, more than 200 wounded, and more than 1,500 detained—all as a result of the Palestinian people's rejection of the Zionist entity's attempts to hold false elections. He stated that massacres in the occupied territories will only strengthen our Palestinian people's determination to pursue armed struggle until final victory, the liberation of Arab territories, and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

He said that the Palestinian leadership has defined broad lines of action during the next stage to confront the Zionist plans, and that the most important of its tasks is to support the intifadah [uprising] seriously and practically by all means and to stop the worsening crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He also repeated his call for an international force to protect the Palestinian people from the Zionist entity's massacres.

He continued that the Palestinian leadership will campaign on the Arab and international levels for holding the international conference, especially since this conference has gained support worldwide.

Regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, 'Arafat stressed that this dialogue is still taking place at low levels, and that the United States has not so far replied to questions posed by the Palestinian delegation concerning the Palestine issue. He said that Palestinian leaders will continue dialogue with the United States despite the U.S. Administration's unbalanced dealing with the two parties to the conflict and its unlimited support for the Zionist entity.

Regarding Lebanon, Yasir 'Arafat expressed the Palestinian leadership's readiness to contribute to any measure to put an end to the crisis in Lebanon. He also expressed his leadership's readiness to participate in any Arab force that formed for this purpose, provided that this force should have the power to deal with the undisciplined parties with the objective of achieving security and stability for the Lebanese people and foiling the Zionist entity's attempts to expand the area it is occupying in Lebanon.

PLF Leader Muhammad 'Abbas Urges Use of Arms

LD2105110589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 21 (KUNA)—A prominent Palestinian leader has called on the Palestinians to use arms in their struggle against the Zionist enemy to create a qualitative leap in the way they confront it.

Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] Secretary General and PLO Executive Committee Member Muhammad 'Abbas, in a statement to daily AL-WATAN published Sunday [21 May], urged greater backing for the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab lands in order to reach its objectives.

The Palestinian official, known as Abu 'Abbas, pointed out that the Palestinian peace moves and flexibility were faced with an exceptional Israeli extremism and terrorism against the Palestinian people.

Regarding the international peace conference on the Mideast, he said convocation of such a conference requires wide Arab and international support. But he said it will not be long before such a gathering takes place.

Abu 'Abbas called on the PLO to open dialogue with the Arab countries so that the Palestinian decision would be made in coordination with the whole Arab nation and not to be limited to Egypt.

Concluding, he said PLF's congress will be held at the end of July, affirming that the PLF will continue backing the Palestine Liberation Organization.

DFLP's Hawatimah on Rejection of Shamir Plan

NC2005142989 Paris AFP in English 1411 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 20 (AFP)—The PLO will call on the Arab summit this week to reject an Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories, a Palestinian leader said here Saturday.

Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said the Palestine Liberation Organisation would present a paper demanding "a clear resolution" rejecting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied territories.

The Shamir plan calls for the election of Palestinians in the occupied territories as an alternative to the Palestine Liberation Organisation—who would negotiate with the Israeli Government.

The representatives would negotiate on a transitional five-year period of limited autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The PLO and Palestinian leaders in the territories have rejected the proposal while Washington has welcomed it, noting that elections must be part of a process that links transitional and final arrangements.

Mr Hawatimah, whose organization is part of the PLO umbrella group, criticized Egypt for not rejecting outright the plan first proposed by Mr Shamir during a trip to Washington last month.

The Arab League is to hold a summit in Casablanca, Morocco this week.

Mr Hawatimah said the Palestinian paper would aim at "cutting short Washington and Tel Aviv's maneuvers for unilateral solutions which create splits among Palestinians and Arabs."

Mr Hawatimah repeated the PLO's demand that elections must follow an Israeli troop withdrawal from the occupied territories and be subject to international supervision.

The paper would also ask for Arab League mediation in trying to reconcile the PLO with Syria, he said. President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat have had chilly relations since Syria supported anti-Arafat Palestinians in 1983.

The document would call for the revival of an Arab League committee seeking to rally international support for an independent Palestinian state, Mr Hawatimah said.

Discusses Summit, Other Issues

JN2005162789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1245 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May (WAKH)—A senior Palestinian official has said that the Palestinian delegation to the emergency Arab summit will present to the Arab leaders a five-point working paper. The paper calls on the summit to adopt a clear, collective position rejecting the plan of Shamir and Rabin and the elections that are being peddled by Washington and Tel Aviv.

Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], said that the Palestinian paper stresses the importance of ending Lebanon's tragedy and halting the civil war and the inter-Arab war in Lebanon. He added that the paper also emphasizes the normalization of Palestinian-Syrian relations. He said that the Arab summit can support Algerian mediation efforts through a meeting in Casablanca between Syrian and Palestinian leaders. This would be a great step that can be accomplished by continuous dialogue between the two sides. He noted that Algerian mediation between Syria and the PLO has made great progress, and that the two sides have given their approval to Algeria to begin dialogue without preconditions.

At a news conference at the Abu Dhabi Meridian Hotel today, the DFLP secretary general said that the Palestinian paper calls for, and insists on holding a five-sided Arab meeting among Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine. This meeting would try to unify their efforts to block U.S. and Israeli maneuvers and to pave the way for effective Arab cohesion in assuming the responsibility of struggle for a fast and comprehensive solution through an international conference.

Hawatimah added that the Palestinian paper also calls for reactivating the seven-member Arab committee formed at the recent Algiers summit and to expand it to support the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. He said that this committee is entrusted with international political tasks, the most important of which, he pointed out, is to acquaint world leaders with the Casablanca summit resolutions that express a collective Arab position, call on all nations to recognize the State of Palestine, stress the need for a comprehensive solution within the framework of an international conference, and determine the Arab states' relations with the other nations in light of their positions on these issues.

Hawatimah added one of this committee's tasks is to go Washington to urge the United States to develop dialogue with the PLO, to agree on the need to settle differences, and to halt U.S. pressure on the PLO, which is aimed at dragging it into accepting the Shamir plan. He said that the tasks of the committee include calling on the UN Security Council five permanent member states to prepare for the holding of an effective international conference, and asking the UN secretary general to send his special envoy to the Middle East to facilitate the international conference.

Hawatimah expressed the hope that current Arab relations would lead to the Casablanca summit's approval of the Palestinian paper, the end of all inter-Arab conflicts, and the mobilization of all Arab resources in support of the intifadah. This is especially important now that all Arab states have agreed to attend the summit, including Egypt, and after the end of the Iraq-Iran war. The main objective is to foil all attempts to distance the Arabs from the intifadah. He said that there is no justification from now on. [sentence as received]

Hawatimah said he hoped that the Arab summit would provide sound solutions to create real solidarity in mobilizing all Arab resources to support the intifadah materially and financially.

He added that Washington and some Arab states are pressuring the PLO to accept the Shamir plan. Since last March, he said, the Palestinians negotiating with the U.S. Administration have been exposed to direct pressure by Washington calling on the PLO to accept elections in the occupied territories in accordance with Shamir's plan, and also to accept the separate bilateral solution [as received] in two stages. He reiterated the PLO's rejection of Shamir's plan, proceeding from the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Algiers, which determined that there would be no solutions in the Middle East without the establishment of an independent state for the Palestinian people, guarantees for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the repatriation of Palestinian refugees to their homeland in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Hawatimah reaffirmed that the Palestinian intifadah will not allow Shamir's plan to pass just as it blocked former U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' plan in 1988. He said that the Palestinian people refuse to make any concessions to Zionist occupation, and that they will continue to work with a realistic outlook that takes into account the local, regional, and international balance of power. He added that since 1974, the PLO has been working in accordance with the Palestinian national short-term program, which stresses the right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

The DFLP secretary general stressed that the Palestinian people will pursue their struggle by every means available, foremost among which are the intifadah, the armed struggle, and political and diplomatic struggle. He said that there are several possible approaches against Zionist occupation and that the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah is the only leader of the intifadah.

He described the Palestinians' use of weapons in Bayt Awla, near Hebron, yesterday, as a heroic and prominent action that falls within the category of popular struggle that was created by the intifadah. He explained that this operation is a form of popular defense of the intifadah, and that it is a means of defending villagers against occupation.

Hawatimah continued that the PLO has decided not to carry out large-scale fedayeen operations in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip in order not to give occupation soldiers the opportunity to perpetrate massacres. He added that the intifadah and the Palestinian revolution will continue to carry out fedayeen operations against occupation forces in the heart of the Zionist entity, and from Lebanon's camps in defense of these camps, and to exercise their sacred right of supporting the intifadah.

Hawatimah said that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue will continue whatever its results and that the PLO will continue this dialogue on the basis of the Palestinian national program. He also stressed that the PLO would continue to reject all U.S. maneuvers and pressures that are aimed at extricating Israel from its current impasse. He said that the results of the dialogue are related to developing the struggle on all Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, and the continuation of the intifadah and the international support for it. This puts pressure on Washington to reverse its position and accept a comprehensive solution based on an international conference, Hawatimah added.

Hawatimah described French President Francois Mitterrand's rejection of the Shamir plan and elections in the Palestinian territories under military occupation as a great development in the French and the West European stance. He added that Washington cannot ignore this for long. He emphasized that Moscow has informed Palestinian leaders that Washington has failed to sell Shamir's plan in Moscow. The USSR, he said, made it clear to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who visited Moscow this month, that it is committed to the PLO's rejection of Shamir's election plan, that this plan constitutes a return to Camp David, and that the USSR refuses to return to Camp David.

Regarding his position toward Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's announcement in Paris concerning the Palestine National Charter, Hawatimah repeated his front's position, saying that the charter is a declaration of general principles, that this is insufficient for any revolution, and that what is required is that this revolution should derive a sound and realistic political program for each stage of action. He noted that the PLO has adopted this approach since 1974 when the PNC approved the PLO's new political program, and which was developed in the resolutions of the recent PNC session in Algiers.

PNC Official on Shamir Plan, Israeli Measures

JN2105114589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
21 May 89 p 22

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and 'Umar al-Khatib, minister plenipotentiary at the Palestine Embassy in Amman, called on world leaders and peoples and human rights organizations in all corners of the world to stand by the Palestinian Arab people and relieve their sufferings.

They said in two statements to AL-RA'Y: We are expecting the Arab kings and presidents to take measures and positins that could form material and moral motives for the intifadah [uprising] people.

They affirmed that the Palestinian leadership and people are determined to continue to escalate the intifadah no matter what the sacrifices until the intifadah attains its goals.

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih told AL-RA'Y that the massacres against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories in Hebron, the Gaza Strip, and other the Palestinian locations as a result of which many martyrs are falling (nine of which nourished the homeland's soil with their blood yesterday) are a clear indication that the Israeli occupation authorities are pressing ahead with their oppression scheme, which aims to choke the Palestinian intifadah and force it to kneel down and surrender, as is clear from the Shamir plan declared in the Knesset on 17 May 1989.

He added: The time has come for these tyrannical authorities and those encouraging them to realize that the Palestinian leadership and people inside [the occupied territories] and in the diaspora are determined to continue the intifadah and escalate it no matter what the sacrifices until it attains its goals of ending the occupation, declaring the independent Palestinian state, and extending its sovereignty over the Palestinian land and its capital, Jerusalem, under the leadership of the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

Sahykh al-Sa'ih said: We are pinning great hopes on the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca to define this clearly and on behalf of all the Arab leaders who stand by and support the Palestinian Arab course.

He added that His Majesty King Husayn has voiced support for this in numerous statements. We hope that everyone will support this course in the summit until the world realizes that this plan is the whole Arab world's.

The PNC speaker said: We are demanding an effective international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all those concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing with others.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih concluded his statements by saying: Palliatives or the twisted proposals of the Zionist enemy do no one any good and will not change the PLO's strategy and policy in line with the PNC resolutions in its 19th round held in Algiers and the PLO Central Council decision issued recently in Tunis.

In an exclusive interview with 'Umar al-Khatib, he affirmed that the escalating Israeli repression will only intensify the courageous intifadah's flame and escalate its response. The starvation measures, whose aim is to prevent Palestinian manual workers from earning their daily bread, will push them toward the furnace of the great Arab battle to drive away the occupation and attain freedom and national independence.

Al-Khatib called on his holiness the pope, leaders and peoples of Europe, the American people, the socialist countries, the UN secretary general, and human rights organizations all over the world to stand by the Palestinian people and help relieve their suffering.

He added: Their positions give our Palestinian people hope and confidence that justice and peace will undoutedly be achieved in the end. We are also waiting for the Arab kings and presidents to take those measures and positions which could provide the material and moral motives for the intifadah people to continue their struggle against the mutual pan-Arab enemy.

On Shamir's plan, Al-Khatib said that it does not form the basic acceptable minimum on the political level. It also does not respond to the aspirations of the Palestinian masses and their national rights. Therefore, its end will be that of failure like all similar projects and proposals, whether the Camp David agreement's part dealing with the Palestinian issue or Shultz' known plan.

Al-Khatib referred to the numerous meetings between Palestinian figures and U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross or between a number of similar figures who were forced to meet with Yitzhaq Rabin. He said: Everyone, despite their numerous leanings and policies, affirmed the central position occupied by the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Algeria

'Text' of President's Bendjedid Message on FLN

LD1905130289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 89

["Text" of message from President Chadli Bendjedid to the secretary general and executive secretaries of the National Liberation Front Central Committee—published 18 May by the weeklies REVOLUTION AFRICAINE and AL-USBU']

[Text] The emergency session of the Central Committee is being held at a decisive period in the life of the National Liberation Front [FLN] and in the political development our country. This period comes as a result of a process of deep social transformations which has been ongoing since independence. It is the result of cultural and economic progress which has affected most citizens in spite of the harsh difficulties imposed by the international economic environment and the weakness of some of the means of running society politically, economically, and socially.

The overwhelming will for change and democracy, and for remedying the noticeable shortcomings pointed out by the Sixth Congress, is embodied in implementing the current reforms, particularly ensuring total individual and social freedom, including freedom of expression, the setting up of cultural, social, and political societies, and the right of nomination to recognized political positions for all citizens. This matter will fundamentally change the way of expressing the political will, the practice of democracy, and the monitoring of the running of political institutions.

In this context, the sixth conference called in its recommendations upon citizens and the bodies of the FLN, espcially the Central Committee, to speed up organization so that the FLN will be in the vanguard of cultural, social, and economic prosperity, and remain the decisive force in change and political mobilization.

On the basis of and in accord with the political situation in the country since the Sixth Congress, militants are called upon today, more than at any other time, to take daily political action and change our internal political organizations, implement the basic ratified law, and broadly mobilize our true social base through the mass organizations, the societies, and the professional associations. The success of the forthcoming emergency congress will thus be guaranteed.

This success depends upon the immediate start of a series of coordinated actions in complete harmony and consistency, actions founded in the grass roots. Such actions are represented in the following:

—The broadening of the base of the FLN so that it can encompass all loyal citizens who respect the November revolution and look forward to a sincere and effective desire for popular unity, national independence, defense of peace and the national language, cultural richness, respect for basic rights, and the achievement of social justice. In this context, the establishment of new FLN cells should be encouraged everywhere, wherever desired and in every sector of activity. The legal renewal for any organ, freedom of candidacy, free elections, and permanent readiness to assume responsibilities at all levels—all these will facilitate the promotion of greater credibility for those militants. It also distinguishes those among them who are better prepared, while maintaining respect for the same rights and obligations for all militants.

—The mobilization of our militants inside the mass organizations, professional associations and societies, and urging them to meet at all levels in order to explain the objectives of the FLN, its reorganization, implementation of its political, economic, and social directives, its study in the light of concrete circumstances of the various sectors of activity, then the convocation of the general assembly in order to begin the process of electing the structures of the relevant organizations in a democratic way. [sentence as heard] In this context, all unions and social organizations should today formulate their basic regulations and express their choice, objectives, and aspirations in accordance with the new requirements of the democracy of social life.

—The explanation of our program: In general assemblies and local or regional seminars, particular care should be taken that militants discuss the general political, economic, and social directives as adopted by the Sixth Congress. Such discussions should be broad, and the directives should be enriched or changed as necessary.

—Preparedness to welcome the forthcoming dates under the best of circumstances because they are decisive dates for the success of the reforms. They require us to exert great efforts in the near future, especially the renewal of municipal and wilaya [provincial] councils.

The triumph of the FLN program requires its militants to confront their opponents who have begun to mobilize for an unrelenting competition. They [the militants] should chose men of integrity, effectiveness, and credibility. This means that we should, as soon as possible, take the initiative in evaluating our activities in the popular municipal and wilaya councils, on the basis of our militants' awareness and competence in effectively resolving citizens' problems. Militants who are nominated either from the ranks of the FLN or from outside it should be chosen on the basis that such a choice is strongly connected with the abilities shown by those nominees and the confidence enjoyed by them. The forthcoming elections should also provide an opportunity for the militants to [words indistinct] and defend it, without recourse to [passage indistinct].

Egypt

Arab League Membership Officially Resumed

NC2105200389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1933 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 21 May (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt officially resumed its full membership of the Arab League tonight, following an absence of more than 10 years.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meetings of the Arab foreign ministers which are taking place to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit conference.

Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali opened the Arab foreign ministers meetings at 2130 Cairo time today.

'Abd al-Majid Comments

NC2105143389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 21 May (MENA)—In a statement to MENA, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stated that Egypt's return to the Arab League was settled through contacts among the Arab kings and presidents which resulted in their inviting Egypt to attend the emergency Arab summit, scheduled to begin here on Tuesday, the day after tomorrow.

Mubarak Leaves Cairo for Casablanca Summit

NC2205082389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Morocco to take part in the work of the emergency Arab summit which will open tomorrow, Tuesday, in Casablanca.

Mubarak Cited on Sudan, Internal Issues

JN1905141489 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 17 May 89 pp 1, 10

[By Misbah Qutub]

[Text] In his meeting with the academic staff of the School of Economics the day before yesterday, President Mubarak affirmed that the basic crisis in the relations between Egypt and Sudan is due to the great amount of what the Sudanese expect Egypt to offer and to their inability to understand the importance of mutual benefit in current international relations. The president said that Egypt is concerned about varying its relations with all political powers in northern and southern Sudan. It does not prefer one party over another, even inside the Ummah Party itself.

The president surprised those present by saying that the Sudanese Liberation Army does not want to separate the south. Garang is not a separatist seeking to effect political and economic changes to strengthen the relations of the north with the south within the framework of one state.

On a question about the set up of the Egyptian state including the presidential institution, the president said that he is not inclined to follow the U.S. model on how the presidential institution functions, because expanding the formation of the specialized institutions will soon turn them into power centers.

The president said that for this reason he is seeking to gain direct or indirect information from any group, citizen, or specialist, regardless of their political leanings.

The president expressed his confidence in Egyptian economists to the extent that he said the IMF negotiators are having problems with him because he depends on the experience of the Egyptian economists from all parties whose capabilities are no less than any international standard.

On the Presidency's and officials' vehicles, the president said that the cost of transportation for the officials put together does not exceed 50 million [Egyptian] pounds. He added that seven cars were recently bought for the cabinet after the cabinet cars were reduced to a sorry state. The president said that buying the Mercedes is for economic and practical reasons.

The president asked the speakers who were former economy ministers: Why did you not implement what you are demanding when you were in power? He added that some ministers left the post and bequeathed a great deficit in the balance of payments. Another left his position because he used to present recommendations that had absolutely nothing to do with reality. He said he had ordered some cars—recently presented as a gift from an Arab leader to a number of executive officials and Egyptian journalists—to be donated to institutions. He pointed out that the Constitution bans ordinary and corporate personalities from accepting gifts.

At the same time, during his speech at the School of Economics and Political Science, President Mubarak pointed out that the recent change which took place in the minister of defense's position had been in the works for 2 years. He stated in an interview with KULL AL-'ARAB magazine, of which only a part was published by the Egyptian press, that reports indicating that Abu Ghazalah's change came upon request from the IMF are untrue. The IMF did not request anything and Abu Ghazalah did not object to anything having to do with the IMF and its relationship with Egypt.

Magazine chief editor Dr Samir Khayri and its Cairo correspondent Mustafa Bakri asked the president:

[Khayri, Bakri] Your Excellency Mr President, we would like to discuss with you some internal issues. First, we would like to ask you about your decision to replace Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah. Your decision was a surprise on internal and external levels. The Western media spoke a great deal about the reasons for this change. What is your explanation of this change?

[Mubarak] This is a normal decision and a very routine procedure. Abu Ghazalah spent 9 years as defense minister. I replaced him in accordance with a decision and charged him with another responsibility. What is so exciting about this matter? You say to me that a great deal has been mentioned in the Western media and I say to you that some Western papers believe that the defense minister in the Third World countries is eternal. This is incorrect. They also believe that the defense minister is a center of power. And this is also incorrect in our country. Abu Ghazalah was neither eternal nor a center of power. And he was not replaced in light of a decision by the IMF to reduce the Armed Forces' budget. The fact is that the IMF did not make such a request and Abu Ghazalah did not reject our decision. All these are baseless statements.

[Khayri, Bakri] Has the time not come to allow some political forces that are deprived of their rights to form parties, such as the Nasirites for example, to exercise a legitimate action through their parties?

[Mubarak] What does Nasirism mean? If it means those affiliated with the July revolution and the defenders of its principles, then we are affiliated with this revolution. This issue is not that of names, in as much as it is a national role played by each one of us to serve the people and look after their interests. It is correct that I hope that everything will be allowed, but so far, there are many issues that deserve our attention. The circumstances require our unity and cohesion instead of fragmentation. Despite this, he who wants to form a political party and has specific objectives should do so in a legal way. If the parties committee rejects the request he can resort to the judiciary. And if a decision is issued by the judiciary to form any political party, the decision will be implemented immediately. At the same time, I reject the idea that anybody becomes a tool to strike at Egypt's stability or to damage Egypt's interests like the paper that wanted to harm our relations with Saudi Arabia. Such behavior is rejected outright.

[Khayri, Bakri] Your Excellency, how do you view the future of the public sector?

[Mubarak] The public sector is not for sale. The public sector is a national economic pillar and selling it means giving free rein to price hikes. And this will be at the expense of the working people. We reject this. The public sector provides the Egyptians with many commodities. The public sector does not deal with the commodities in light of supply and demand. In addition to the public sector, I support a strong private sector that is capable of playing an important role in the development plan and in making available the needs of the society.

Cabinet Changes Reportedly Postponed Until Sep

JN2005161889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 May 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Text] Informed political circles have divulged information pertaining to the political leadership's intention to postpone the cabinet reshuffle for the time being, saying that a new cabinet is expected to be formed next September, before the resumption of classes at the universities. These circles say the postponement of the reshuffle is due to circumstances related to the Consultative Council elections; the continuous consultations between 'Atif Sidqi's government on the one hand and the IMF, the international financial institutions, and the creditor states on the other; and the continuing implementation of the economic reform program, especially with regard to a gradual lift of the government subsidy on all commodities and increasing the cost of government services and customs charges.

The political circles note that Dr Salah Hamid, governor of the Egyptian Central Bank; and Dr Samir Tubar, chairman of the economic committee in the National Democratic Party, are being considered for nomination to form the next government.

The political leadership has directed strong criticism at the present government over the past few days, accusing it of failure to accomplish the tasks assigned to it. The political leadership also blamed the government for the continuation of the crisis of the depositors in the capital investment companies and demanded a speedy solution to the outstanding issues between the financial market corporation and these companies.

Mubarak Plans To Run for OAU Chairman

NC1905140289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1249 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil al-Sallawi, chief of the Africa Department at the Foreign Ministry, returned to Cairo today after completing a tour of Africa that took him to nine African states in the capacity as President Husni Mubarak's envoy.

In an exclusive statement to MENA upon his arrival, Ambassador al-Sallawi said that he had handed messages from President Mubarak to the presidents of Kenya, Zambia, Angola, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Botswana, and Malawi. He disclosed that the messages dealt with international and African issues of common interest and ways in which ties

between Egypt and each of these states could be promoted. They also fall within the framework of the continuing consultations between President Mubarak and the African leaders, he added.

The chief of the Foreign Ministry's Africa Department further revealed that President Husni Mubarak informed the African heads of state in his messages of his intention to run for OAU chairman during the forthcoming African summit. Ambassador al-Sallawi stressed that the presidents with whom he had met had received President Mubarak's intention with extreme satisfaction and acceptance, and added that they also wished the president good luck. He noted that the presidents expressed their thanks to President Mubarak in advance for the efforts he will exert to resolve Africa's problems. They also emphasized that they look forward to meeting with President Mubarak during the forthcoming African summit in Addis Ababa, scheduled to convene on 25 July.

Sultan Qabus Continues Visit, Holds Talks

Meets With Mubarak in Alexandria

JN2005175389 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and his brother, His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, this afternoon continued their talks at the Al-Muntazah Palace in Alexandria. This was during a working luncheon His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held in honor of Egypt's revered guest, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, and the delegation accompanying his majesty.

The two leaders had talks earlier today aboard the train which carried them from Cairo to Alexandria.

His Excellency Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas said that the talks of the two revered leaders dealt with bilateral relations in particular, and means to bolster them in various fields.

His excellency said the Palestine question was the focus of a dialogue between His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brother, His Excellency President Mubarak. He said they agreed on the need to bolster peace efforts to enable the Palestinian people to achieve their rights fully.

His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas affirmed that the two revered leaders discussed the Lebanese issue from all its angles. He said the two leaders' viewpoints were identical in this regard. He added that His Majesty Sultan Qabus and his brother the Egyptian president discussed the emergency Arab summit which will be held in Casablanca. They agreed to coordinate their positions on means to deal with all Arab issues. His excellency added that the efforts of the two leaders fall within the framework of coordinating the aspired Arab action and within the continuous rational dialogue, which is considered the cornerstone of the policy of His Majesty Sultan Qabus and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Final Round of Talks Held

NC2105075189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, held their final round of talks this morning at al-Qubbah Palace.

The talks were held prior to Sultan Qabus' departure from Cairo en route to Morocco at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt.

The sultan of Oman held several rounds of talks with President Mubarak during this visit that dealt with the means of establishing a just peace in the Gulf region, bilateral relations, and the Palestinian problem.

Holds News Conference

NC2105113789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, has declared that the principal and basic task of the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca, Morocco, is to welcome Egypt back to the summit and then to discuss the Lebanese problem and any other issues that might come up.

Speaking at a news conference he held today prior to his departure from Cairo, Sultan Qabus said that the regular summit that is scheduled to be held in the near future, possibly next year, must make a decision and draw up rules for the regular holding of Arab summits so that they can be held annually or every 2 years, according to the consensus. He noted that the regular Arab summit has not been held for a long time due to the existence of deep differences among the Arab countries and the threats by some of them not to attend. He stressed that when the regular Arab summit is held all issues that have impeded holding summits in the past would have been removed at the emergency Casablanca summit. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question on the priorities of discussion at the Casablanca summit, Sultan Qabus stressed that the Lebanese issue is the problem of the moment. Discussions must revolve around it and views must be exchanged on the means of containing it at the Arab level. He added: As to the Palestinian issue, thank God that the Palestinians are now expressing their views and that they have ideas about what they want and what they do not want. The Arab nation has only to bless their steps, as they are the ones primarily concerned with the issue. What remains is to support the steadfastness and the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Palestinian territories. [passage omitted]

Regarding his concept of a solution for the Lebanese problem, His Majesty Sultan Qabus said: The six-man committee formed by the Arab League will submit its ideas to the summit and will continue its work and tasks. He added: All current mediations to resolve the Lebanese problem must, in my view, revolve around helping the Lebanese overcome their crisis, because the solution is ultimately in the hands of the Lebanese and they must have a clear concept. They must also form a government that expresses the voice of all the Lebanese and hence make their voice the decisive one.

Regarding the foreign presence in Lebanese territories, His Majesty Sultan Qabus stressed that so long as there is no government in Lebanon that is recognized by all parties, the Lebanese will have no voice, because a recognized government can decide who remains in and who leaves the Lebanese territories. At the same time, the sultan of Oman stressed the need for the Arabs to help the Lebanese find a way out of their crisis. He asked: What is this way out, and how do we reach it? He added: There must be an in-depth study of the problem and its dimensions and background. We must give the Lebanese the opportunity to be heard by all parties so that they can form their opinion that will help Lebanon overcome its tribulation.

Answering another question on the existing three Arab groupings and the possibility of cooperation between them, Sultan Qabus of Oman said: The groupings in themselves are something good. I believe that each grouping has its own particular aspects within the matters and affairs that bring these countries together. He stressed that these efforts end up in the Arab League in the latter's capacity as the larger framework of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Regarding the difficulties facing Arab-Iranian reconciliation, Sultan Qabus stressed that matters have become easier than in the past because of the present international detente. He expressed optimism that the UN secretary general will be able to end the state of no peace no war existing in the region. He added that the two parties to the conflict desire to establish a lasting peace but there are points which could be subject to intransigence by this or that party. He stressed that there is no problem that cannot be solved if the intentions are there. He said: I believe that the good intentions are in fact there, but there remains the bargaining over some issues and priorities which each side is submitting from its own viewpoint. He noted that many of the world problems which had been hard to resolve have been resolved, such as the Namibian problem.

Sultan Qabus concluded his news conference by stressing the desire of everybody to live in peace in this part of the world.

Departs for Morocco 21 May

NC2105092189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0846 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, left Cairo International Airport at 1130 today en route to Morocco at the end of a 4-day visit to Egypt. He was seen off at the airport by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Sources Forecast $2 Billion Trade With USSR

NC2205073389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Well-informed economic sources have praised current Egyptian-Soviet trade cooperation, forecasting a growth in that cooperation over the next 5 years that would take annual trade figures to approximately $2 billion. The sources noted the importance of the long-term trade program that the two countries will put into effect as of 1991.

Paper Cited on U.S. 'Contradictory' Policy

NC2105062589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR calls on the United States to take a clear-cut and definite position on the peace issue. Such a position needs to be marked by neutrality and justice toward Israel, the aggressor, and the Palestinians, subjects of the aggression, who are only demanding fair treatment that will restore their just and legitimate rights.

In its main commentary to appear in tomorrow's edition, the paper says the U.S. policy toward the Palestinian issue is contradictory and conflicting and thus raises doubts about Washington's true intentions and position. The paper notes that while the head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations condemns Israel's excessive use of violence against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, this same delegation rejects any international condemnation of Israel by the Security Council or the General Assembly and uses the right of veto to block any resolution being issued in this respect. This behavior is tantamount to a U.S. endorsement of the brutal Israeli practices against the inhabitants of the occupied territories.

The paper adds that while Washington accepts entering into a dialogue with the PLO over the future of the occupied Arab territories, it also threatens the United Nations and their specialized agencies that it will suspend its financial contributions should these organizations accept Palestine's membership.

Editorial on 'Fair' U.S. Election Requirements

JN2005154389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 May 89 p 7

[Editorial: "American Requirements"]

[Text] The Americans seem to be getting wise to the goals which Shamir's proposed elections for the West Bank and Gaza Strip set out to achieve—sidestepping international pressure and wriggling out of an international diplomatic siege laid by the momentum of the Palestinian peace initiative.

Shamir's government has deployed all the tricks and games it could muster to sell the election plan. The motive behind the plan, however, appears not to have been lost on the Americans. Beneath the veneer of the plan, there exist no positive elements that could promote a settlement. Nor does the plan show any seriousness or credibility in addressing the facts on the ground: The plan calls for elections under occupation and refuses that they be held under neutral auspices.

Further, the plan does not regard East Jerusalem as occupied territory, the city having been unilaterally annexed in 1980; it is thus excluded from the proposed elections. The plan also bypasses the direct question of the role of the elections in the context of an overall settlement, and fudges on the final status of the occupied territory. Shamir was even quoted as saying that the candidates will have to pledge beforehand that they will not work for setting up a Palestinian state.

As reported by AL-AHRAM's Washington correspondent, the United States would like to see clearcut positive steps in this area: It wants Israel to agree to international supervision of the poll and to agree that the elections cover East Jerusalem, its being occupied, illegally-annexed land. The United States also wants Israel to define its position on the final status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to permit banished Palestinians to contest the elections.

To be sure, the Americans fall short of an explicit call for an end to Israeli occupation. The election requirements they have put forward, however, are fair and cut the ground out from under the false Israeli plan. The United States could, perhaps, go a step further and require guarantees for free and fair elections away from the intimidation and terror of the big stick.

The United States would do well to be serious and uncompromising on the matter, as Washington has now been briefed on the Israeli plan. The United States, hopefully, will not rush into accepting unfounded assertions and false guarantees from Israel. It is hoped that the United States will instead stick to its position and time their announcement with the developing Israeli position, the way it acted vis-a-vis the PLO until the latter met Washington's terms.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Al-Asad, Bendjedid, Ben Ali

Al-Asad Arrives 21 May

LD2105183189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1822 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 21 May (JANA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Tripoli this evening at 1930 on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A big official and popular welcome ceremony was given to President Hafiz al-Asad. The brother leader of the revolution led the welcomers.

President Hafiz al-Asad made a statement to JANA in which he said: As you know, our meetings have become customary. During these talks we exchange views on our bilateral relations, which in most of our meetings concern pan-Arab issues, and we also examine whatever would benefit our nations as well as the best solutions to our nations' problems. In doing so, we are guided by the general Arab interest; there is no other motive. Thus, I wished to meet with my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in order to discuss with him what could be done and what we should (?do), what is good and what is harmful. Our meetings are continuously good, thanks be to God. On this occasion, I would like to extend my greetings to the great Libyan Arab people. I am happy to be present here on fraternal Libyan Arab soil.

President Hafiz al-Asad is accompanied by brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of fraternal Syria.

Bendjedid Arrives 21 May

LD2105135489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1144 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 21 May (JANA)—President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic of sister Algeria, arrived in Tripoli at 1230 this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Chadli Bendjedid was accorded a large official and popular reception, where the brother leader of the revolution was foremost among those welcoming him. The reception was also attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

President Chadli Bendjedid made a statement to JANA on his arrival in the Great Jamahiriyah, in which he said: I am very happy to be present in my second country, the Jamahiriyah, especially to meet my brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, in order to exchange views on various Maghreb, Arab, and international issues, as well as issues concerning the two countries of the region.

President Chadli Bendjedid pointed out that this visit comes in the context of exchanging views in various fields, a wise course which has led the Jamahiriyah and Algeria to meet whenever possible, over a number years, in order to exchange views over a number of issues. [passage omitted]

Benjadid, Al-Qadhdhafi Meet

LD2105203789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1932 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tripoli 21 May [JANA]—Brother leader of the revolution and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic of fraternal Algeria, had a meeting this

evening, which was attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud. The meeting was also attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation; brother Boualem Bessaieh, member of the Algerian National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee and foreign minister, and Larbi Belkheir, member of the Algerian FLN Central Committee and director of the Presidential Office.

3 Leaders Meet

JN2205060589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tripoli—President Hafiz al-Asad and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya, held a meeting at 2140, Damascus time, yesterday. The meeting was attended by [Syrian] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam; Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command; and brother Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for the People's Bureau of Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

During the meeting, President Hafiz al-Asad and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi held a telephone coversation with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to discuss current Arab affairs.

After the meeting, President Hafiz al-Asad and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi moved to Algerian President Chadli Benjedid's residence in Tripoli. The three leaders held a meeting that was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Maj 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September Revolution Command.

During the two meetings, the conferees discussed the general Arab situation and the issue of the emergency Arab summit.

President Hafiz al-Asad, accompanied by Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, paid a visit to Al-Qadhdhafi's residence at Bab al-'Aziziyah in Tripoli. His excellency saw the effects of the bestial destruction inflicted on Col al-Qadhdhafi's residence as a result of the bestial American aggression in 1986. The president wrote the following note in the visitors' book:

This crime committed by American imperialism was aimed against the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its revolution. At the same time, this crime is targeted against the Arab nation and the national liberation movements in the world.

We condemn the crime and its perpetrators. We assert that the response to this crime should be achieved through the unity of the nation on the path of struggle to liberate the Arab territory, regain the usurped rights, and build the state of unity.

Ben Ali Arrives 22 May

LD2205075189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0720 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 22 May (JANA)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic in sister Tunisia, arrived in Tripoli at 0300 today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was accorded an official reception. The brother leader of the revolution was in the forefront of those welcoming him. [passage omitted]

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made a statement to JANA in which he said: I am pleased to be present on the soil of the fraternal Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, my second country, and to meet my friend and brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great Al-Fatih revolution, in the context of consultations on Maghreb and Arab issues.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is accompanied on his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah by brothers Mohamed El Jeri, secretary general of the Presidency; Mancer Roussi, minister of social affairs; and Habib Ben Yahya, secretary of state for foreign affairs.

4 Leaders Meet

JN2205120889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tripoli—A meeting comprising His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who arrived in Tripoli at dawn today, was held at at the Libyan revolution command headquarters in Tripoli at 1200 today, Damascus time. The meeting was attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

During the meeting, discussion dealt with the topics that were raised during the tripartite meeting held last night among President Hafiz al-Asad, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and President Chadli Bendjedid. The talks focused on the extraordinary Arab situation in Casablanca. [sentence as heard]

A SANA correspodent in Tripoli has learned that a great sense of pan-Arab responsiblity toward the Arab nation's causes prevailed during the meeting in Tripoli.

Secret Preparations for Arab Summit Reported

LD2005123689 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1137 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 20 May—The JANA political editor has reaffirmed the truthfulness of the agency's report during the past 2 days that many Arab countries have officially confirmed they had no knowledge of any reason to

convene an emergency Arab summit conference. They had also been surprised by the call to convene such a conference as there is no urgent issue to justify the call for the convening of an Arab summit or a meeting.

The editor said that what has been disseminated by JANA in this regard was 100 percent correct, and the agency is sorry if it has exposed the true nature of some Arab rulers who do not disclose what they think and who do not have the courage to declare their positions.

He added that those who stress that they have not been surprised by the call to convene a summit conference and that they have been aware of the preparations for it are admitting that they had been secretly involved in preparing for and organizing that conference with imperialist circles. They will bear responsibility for the resultant abandoning of the rights of future Arab generations.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Arrives 20 May

LD2005200989 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Miguel d'Escoto, Nicaraguan foreign minister and special envoy of President Daniel Ortega, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Mengistu on Coup Situation

LD2005122789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1136 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, 20 May (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has contacted Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam by phone. President Mengistu Haile Mariam reassured the brother leader regarding the situation in Ethiopia since the government forces have been able to crush the coup and destroy the treachery of some officers.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on Situation in Darfur, IMF Proposals

NC2005205889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 20 May (MENA)—The Sudanese Defense Council decided during its meeting here today to charge Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil and a delegation comprising the deputy chief of staff and deputy police director with following up the deteriorating situation in Darfur and reporting their findings to the council's next session. In this way, necessary measures may be adopted.

In a statement after the Defense Council's session, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the council had discussed the new people's defense law [qanun al-difa' al-sha'bi]. He noted that the ongoing conflict in Darfur represents a link in the chain of tribal strife between the Al-'Arab and Al-Ghur tribes.

In another development, Al-Mahdi said that during a recent visit to Sudan, an IMF delegation had made some proposals to the Sudanese Government calling for cuts in expenditure and an increase in production. The government, he added, made some counterproposals.

Regarding the question of convening an economic conference in the coming days to discuss the economic crisis in Sudan, Al-Mahdi said the economic facts change from time to time. Many of the economic problems facing Sudan have political roots. He added that Sudan spends more than it can possibly afford on evacuees, refugees, and reconstruction, but that this is a temporary situation.

Al-Mahdi's Cease-Fire Intentions Viewed

AB1905214689 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 19 May 89

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Sudan's prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, appears to be retreating from his initial endorsement of the cease-fire by SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels in southern Sudan. At the beginning of this month after a period of diplomatic toing and froing between Khartoum and Addis Ababa, the SPLA announced a 1-month cease-fire and asked the government troops to remain in their present positions. Al-Sadiq's initial reaction [words indistinct] said that the government would take two steps for any one taken by the SPLA on the road to peace. But yesterday he appeared to reverse his position when he said the government would not observe the cease-fire itself. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

[Begin studio announcer's recording] Al-Mahdi said his government is not committed to a cease-fire or to anything else that it was not a party to. We must meet for talks, he said, because we were not to be committed to a cease-fire that was not jointly agreed. He had earlier requested the SPLA to meet with a government military delegation in the middle of the month and to set up a joint military technical committee to discuss all aspects of the truce. The SPLA rejected the offer, saying that it has no dealings with the peace ministerial committee, headed by Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, and called for formation of another committee with a new and a welcome development. Al-Mahdi said the SPLA must agree to talks with his government if it really wanted to end the civil war. He added: We decide the time limit and if there is no peace, we close the door and take up the fence. [end recording]

Tunisia

Libya's Jallud on Working Visit to Tunis

Working Session Held 17 May

LD1805085789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 17 May (JANA)—A working session was held this evening in Government Palace in the

Casbah between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and brother Hedi Baccouche, Tunisian prime minister. [passage omitted]

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud had arrived earlier this evening in fraternal Tunisia to attend the third meeting of the Libyan-Tunisian joint higher committee. [passage omitted]

Meets With President

LD1805130789 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] At the Presidential Palace in Carthage this morning, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali met Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, in the presence of Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche and Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh.

Following the audience, Jallud stated that the meeting was fraternal. He indicated that the meeting touched on bilateral relations, the development of unionist action according to the program set aside for this purpose, and the situation in the Maghreb—issues related to the Arab nation and the challenges it faces.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud said that he found the president fully aware of the issues discussed during the meeting.

Talks Continue 18 May

LD1905090689 Tripoli JANA in English 1704 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Tunis, Al-Ma' [May] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Supreme Follow-Up Committee between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia resumed its sessions this morning at the government palace in Casbah - Tunis with Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Hedi Baccouche the Tunisian prime minister, the secretary of the General People's Committee in Great Jamahiriyah and chairmen of various sectarian committees in both sisterly countries—consisting of secretaries of General People's Committee in Great Jamahiriyah and cabinet secretaries in Tunisia—attending.

During this session, the Supreme Committee listened to a review of what had the sectorial [as received] committees arrived at in last night and this morning meetings in Tunis on the sideline of the meeting of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee.

In the meeting agreement was reached on regulation of trade exchange, setting of joint projects from both sisterly countries and stress upon the flow of products of national origin in both countries, preference given to them. [sentence as received]

Minutes of Meeting Signed

LD1905091589 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Staff Major ['Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud] and Tunisian Prime Minister Brother Hedi Baccouche signed the minutes of the meeting of the Supreme Follow-Up Committee between Tunisia and the Great Jamahiriyah in Tunis this evening. The committee has entrusted the joint subcommittees with continuing their work. The two sides also agreed to build a gas, phosphate, and aluminium complex in southern Tunisia and western Libya.

Departs 18 May

LD1905091289 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 18 May 89

[Summary] Staff Major Jallud and the delegation accompanyiung him concluded their visit to Tunisia this evening. They were seen off by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Secretary General of the Democratic Constitutional Rally Abderrahim Zouari, and other senior officials.

Staff Major Jallud gave a statement to the press stressing the importance of the unionist meetings between the two sisterly countries. He added that the two sides examined practical formulas to pursue the unionist moves and to achieve unity in accordance with the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

Bahrain

Defense Minister Leaves for UK Visit 21 May

JN2105111289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Manama, 21 May (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of defense and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Force, left Manama for the United Kingdom this morning on a visit of several days.

The Bahraini defense minister's visit is in response to the invitation of George Younger, British secretary of state for defense. He is accompanied on the visit by a number of senior officers of the Defense Force.

Oman

Sultan Qabus To Take Part in 23 May Summit

JN2005170389 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 20 May 89

[Statement issued by Sultanate Court; date not given]

[Text] God willing, His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, may God preserve him, will join his brother leaders of the sisterly Arab states at the emergency Arab summit, which will be held in Casablanca, in the Kingdom of Morocco, on 23 May 1989. He is attending in response to the invitation his majesty, may God preserve him, received from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco.

May God grant his majesty continued safety and success, as well as his brothers in their conference so that peace be established and security, welfare, and prosperity prevail among the entire Arab nation.

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Leave for Casablanca 22 May

JN2205092789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Doha, 22 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, left Doha for Casablanca this morning leading his country's delegation to the meetings of the emergency Arab summit to begin there tomorrow, Tuesday. His highness was seen off by His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir and heir apparent.

The Qatari amir is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation comprised of Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, minister of finance and oil; Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Dr Hasan Kamil, his highness the amir's adviser; Dr 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari, minister of information; Shaykh Hamad ibn Suhaym Al Thani, Foreign Ministry under secretary; 'Abd al-Rahman Muftah, Qatar's ambassador to Morocco; and Yusuf 'Isa al-Nu'aymi, chief of protocol at the Amir's Office.

The Qatari amir is also accompanied by a media and journalists' delegation consisting of the owners and chief editors of the Qatari newspapers.

Saudi Arabia

Defense Ministry Denies Purchase of PRC Missiles

LD2005210289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Today's issue of the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH quoted the German [as heard] LA TRIBUNE newspaper as saying that the Kingdom and Syria have signed a trilateral agreement with the PRC to purchase M-9 surface-to-surface missiles and other Chinese ballistic missiles. The story also said that the Kingdom will fund the entire deal.

A responsible source at the Defense Ministry told SPA that there is no truth whatsoever to this story.

King Fahd, Delegation To Attend Arab Summit

LD2105194389 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 May (SPA)—The Royal Court announced in a statement issued today, Sunday, that the custodian of the two holy mosques will leave for Morocco tomorrow, Monday, with God's will, in order to attend the emergency Arab summit conference. Here is the text of the statement:

"Statement by the Royal Court:

The Custodian Of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, will leave for the Kingdom of Morocco tomorrow, Monday, 17 Shawwal 1409 H, corresponding to 22 May 1989, to attend the emergency Arab summit conference to be held in Casablanca.

The custodian of the two holy mosques will be accompanied by :

1. His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, amir of the Riyadh region.

2. His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, foreign minister.

3. His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud.

4. His Excellency Muhammad Abu al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy.

5. His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning.

6. His Excellency Shaykh Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shaykh, head of the royal protocol.

7. His Excellency 'Abd al-Wahab ibn Muhammad al-'Issi, deputy head of the royal protocol." [passage omitted]

Kingdom's Position on Casablanca Summit Clarified
LD1905183589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] In confirmation of the clarifications issued this afternoon by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the content of the verbal message delivered by the envoy of the King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to His Excellency President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi; and in view of inaccurate reporting on the content of the message by Libyan radio in its news bulletins, an official source told SPA: While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was having contacts with its brother leaders of Arab countries in preparation for the holding of an Arab summit in the Kingdom, and while being ready to attend any extraordinary Arab summit to which it is invited, His Majesty King Hasan II, king of the sister Moroccan Kingdom, saw it necessary to hold an extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca, and invited the leaders of the Arab countries to attend it.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was the first to support the convening of this summit and the first to welcome participating in it, out of its conviction that any Arab meeting would be in the interest of the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

With this clarification, it is no longer possible to cast doubt on the firm attitude of the Kingdom, made public many times, of full support for the extraordinary Arab summit and its desire to attend it in Casablanca on its scheduled date, God willing.

United Arab Emirates

President Heads Delegation to Arab League Summit
JN2205103089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], left the country for the Kingdom of Morocco today to participate in the meetings of the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Casablanca tomorrow, Tuesday.

His highness the UAE president is accompanied by Shaykh Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, Ra's al-Khaymah heir apparent and deputy ruler; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum, defense minister; Shaykh Sultan ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Public Works Department chief; Ahmad Khalifah al-Suwaydi, the UAE president's representative; Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, petroleum and natural resources minister; Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for interior affairs; Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khamis Bati al-Rumaythi, chief of the Presidential Office; Dr 'Abdallah al-Nuways, Information and Culture Ministry under secretary; 'Isa Bu Shihab, the UAE ambassador to Morocco; Brigadier General Hamad Suhayl al-Khayli, the UAE president's military escort; and Muhammad ibn Hindi, assistant officer at the Protocol Directorate.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Interviewed on PLO, Saudi Border Issues
JN2005153289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH today published an interview with Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The interview was conducted by Muhammad Zayn, the paper's managing editor. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question, the president refuted allegations that the PLO pays an annual sum of money in return for the facilities it enjoys in the country. He affirmed this allegation is completely groundless, and that we must not be dragged behind tendentious propaganda by raising such a question. He exclaimed: Since when has the primary Arab cause become an arena for material bargains! He said: We consider the Palestinian brothers in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] to be in their homeland. The aid our country extends within its available resources to the Palestinian revolution is a pan-Arab duty, until the Palestinian Arab people regain their legitimate rights and have their land liberated from the Zionist occupation.

Responding to another question on occasional allegations to the effect that some Yemeni islands are being used as PLO military bases, the president said: There is no truth in what is being said about this issue. Such rumors are propagated by quarters and media hostile to Yemen and to the Arab nation. The Palestinian brothers are present in the YAR, regardless of the areas where they are deployed. He said: We have frequently affirmed that the Zionist arrogance is not against Yemen only, and that no Arab country is safe from the arrogance of the Zionist enemy. We are ready to confront any emergency, and we will confront any aggression. [passage omitted]

Responding to another question on the border between our country and Saudi Arabia, the president affirmed that, in principle, there is nothing that prevents any two neighboring countries from solving border issues. He said: The issue of the Yemeni-Saudi borders is like all border issues between neighboring countries. This issue is not a major one, and must take its time. If some say that there are red lines that must be observed if relations based on 'good-neighborliness' and nonintervention in internal affairs between states are to be entrenched and

consolidated, this is a new development in international relations. Thus, we have continuous contacts and consultations with our brothers in Saudi Arabia, headed by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to solve all issues that must take place between neighbors. Undoubtedly, this is a national duty shouldered by every Yemeni and Saudi citizen, inasmuch as by the two countries' state organs. He added: We reaffirm that the borders and illusionary barriers between the countries of the one Arab homeland are a colonialist legacy, and must be removed. We Arabs must resolve the border problem and devote our efforts to the causes of our Arab nation, which is facing many enemy challenges and plots, so as to achieve further solidarity, integration, and unity of ranks, in order to reach a comprehensive Arab unity.

Asked about the volume of the Saudi aid to our country, the president explained: The aid sisterly Saudi Arabia has extended to the YAR is manifold. It was given to many development fields. This aid is organized within the Yemeni-Saudi Coordination Council, which holds annual meetings co-chaired by the prime minister and His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister in Saudi Arabia.

Asked about the motives for concluding a non-aggression treaty between our country and Saudi Arabia during King Fahd's visit after the pattern of the one King Fahd concluded with President Saddam Husayn, the president explained: We support the principle of signing any agreement between any two or more Arab countries to achieve further mutual trust, understanding, and solidarity. There is no harm in that as it reflects a joint interest and pours into the framework of a more comprehensive Arab cooperation. The relationship between our country and Saudi Arabia is excellent and strong. The existing cooperation between the two fraternal countries covers all fields. The expected visit of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to Yemen, his second homeland, will further promote and consolidate the existing intimate relationship between the two countries and will open new horizons for further bilateral brotherly cooperation. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Casablanca 20 May

JN2005180189 Baghdad INA in English 1615 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz left Baghdad today afternoon, leading a delegation to attend meeting of the Arab foreign ministers that will be held in Casablanca, Morocco on Sunday.

The meeting is to complete the final preparations for the convening of the Arab emergency summit due to be opened on Tuesday.

AL-THAWRAH on Syrian Role in Mufti's Death

JN2005100089 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad today charged the Syrian regime with implementing the crime of assassinating Lebanon's religious leader Hasan Khalid last week.

A daily article here today said that a fierce reaction entailed the crime of the Syrian regime leading among which was founding a new armed organization called "Forces of Martyr Hasan Khalid" for resisting the Syrian occupation of Lebanon on crimes perpetrated against the Lebanese people.

The daily added that headquarters and offices of Hafiz al-Asad organs were the posts from which the killers planned conspiratorial and sabotage acts in Lebanon.

It pointed out that killing Shaykh Hasan Khalid recalled the chain of crimes planned by the Syrian regime which led to the killing of well-known Arab journalist Hasan Hanna Muqbil, [the] attempt to assassinate Lebanese politician Raymond Iddah and the killing of 'Adnan Sinnu and several other leading personalities.

The daily added that the entire world had become aware that circles of Hafiz al-Asad's regime were turned into headquarters of Mafia, a matter that made several international parties candidly talk about the subversive role of Hafiz al-Asad regime in Syria and Lebanon and activity in the field of narcotics trafficking.

AL-THAWRAH on Syrian 'Demonstrations'

JN1905114689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—The Baghdad-based AL-THAWRAH has described the worsening economic situation in Syria. Demonstrations are sweeping through a number of Syrian cities, as a tempestous revolution that made the end of Hafiz al-Asad's regime come very near.

In an article published today, the newspaper says: The demonstrations, in which people chanted, "We want bread, we want flour, we want to eat for we are hungry," forced the Syrian regime's leadership to arrest a number of its senior officials in Al-Ladhiqiyah Province for failing to monitor and suppress the discontent, and not for failing to meet the citizens' needs.

The newspaper points out that the economic crisis burdening Syrian citizens today is the result of economic confusion which opened Syria's doors for foreign monopolies to execute a number of parasitical projects at the expense of the national economy. These projects did not offer any services or goods to meet citizens' needs but aimed to achieve quick and very large profits.

The newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, adds: This actual monopolistic method, in addition to the corruption of the regime's pillars and their illegal fortune-making, are the two real reasons behind the sufferings of the Syrian citizen. The Tehran rulers' aid and the prosthetic measures to treat the economic crisis did not manage to remedy this phenomenon.

In another article, the newspaper says: The announcement about the visit by the president of the Syrian regime to Tehran is an attempt to appease the Iranian regime and confirm that his participation in the emergency [Arab] summit will not change his alliance with Iran.

The newspaper adds that this reassuring indication about the strategic alliance with Iran became useless when the Iranian media began to talk about Hafiz al-Asad's grave mistake in agreeing to take part in the Casablanca summit.

The newspaper explains: The Tehran rulers were not content with criticizing the Syrian regime. They once again repeated their racist allegations by directing the worst slanders against the Arab nationalist movement and alleging that it is tied to U.S. colonialism, thus ignoring all the Arab nation's struggles against all forms of colonialism.

The article blames Hafiz al-Asad and his regime for the Iranian regime's intervention in Arab affairs by making Iran a partner in Arab political issues.

The paper concludes by asserting that the Syrian regime's alliance with Iran and siding with it in its trench is more that a grave mistake; it is "treason against the causes of the nation."

AL-THAWRAH Assails Al-Asad's Iran Visit

JN2105083789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that the visit by Hafiz al-Asad, head of the Syrian regime, to Iran falls within the framework of efforts to "hatch conspiracies and coordinate stands between the two sides."

In one of its commentaries today under the headline "A Visit and a Conspiracy," the newspaper adds: The timing of the announcement on the visit confirms the conspiratorial aspect of the visit and exposes the means of blackmail and maneuvering being pursued by the Damascus regime on the eve of the convening of the emergency Arab summit.

The paper asserts that the summiteers will discuss the main Arab causes in which the Syrian regime is playing a subversive role, in particular the Palestine question and the Lebanese issue.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Hafiz al-Asad is brandishing the Iranian card in the hope of weakening the Arab consensus on condemning the treasonous Syrian behavior and its conspiratorial role. The paper goes on to say that the Syrian regime's record "has many precedents of resorting to cheap blackmail" in this regard.

Saddam Gives Scholarships to Palestinian Students

JN2005163889 Baghdad INA in English 1430 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 20, INA—President Saddam Husayn ordered the allotment of 100 scholarships at the Iraqi universities and institutes for the Palestinian students from the occupied territories.

A first-degree relative of each martyr of the Palestinian uprising entertains the right to win one of these scholarships.

Saudi Commerce Minister, Delegation Meet Ramadan

JN2105151089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1405 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolutionary Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Dr Sulayman al-Sulayyim, Saudi Arabia's commerce minister and head of the Saudi team to the Iraqi-Saudi committee on economic, technical, and trade cooperation.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said at the meeting that the exemplary ties between the two countries call for continued serious work to explore further avenues of cooperation.

He stressed the need for the joint committee meetings, now that they are being held at ministerial level, to produce positive results so as to further expand economic and trade relations.

The deputy prime minister reiterated Iraq's pride in Saudi Arabia's honorable positions toward Iraq, noting that they have boosted Arab confidence in Arab solidarity against aggressors.

Sulayman al-Sulayyim emphasized that Saudi Arabia's attitude toward Iraq is not transitory but will continue on the same course as they share a common fate. He stressed that the victories of the Iraqis were made possible by sacrifice and blood.

Al-Sulayyim said he is confident the meetings of the joint committee will add a new brick to the edifice of the exemplary cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

The talks, noted the Saudi minister, have addressed all areas of trade, economic, and technical cooperation that should further expand bilateral ties.

The meeting was attended by 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, minister of oil and the head of Iraq's team to the joint committee and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

Joint Committee Begins Meetings

JN2105121289 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 21, INA—Meetings started here today of the Iraqi-Saudi joint committee for technical, trade, and economic cooperation and continues for two days.

Speaking at the opening meeting, Mr 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side to the committee, stressed that fields of cooperation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia are wide and could witness big progress as Iraq is now witnessing radical changes in the methods of dealing by giving prominent role to the private sector which would facilitate dealing with Saudi businessmen. The Iraqi governmental institutions were providing prerequisites for promoting and expanding this cooperation for the interest of the two countries, he said.

Dr Sulayman al-Sulayyim, Saudi minister of commerce and head of his country's delegation, extolled the developing relations between the two countries and said that common interest and firm historic relations between the two countries would contribute to increasing bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

Minutes of Meetings Signed

JN2205121689 Baghdad INA in English 1125 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 22, INA—Iraq and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed this morning minutes on meetings of the 5th session of the joint committee for economic, trade and technical cooperation.

The minutes, signed by Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim and Dr Sulayman Salim, Saudi minister of trade affirmed the two sides' desire to increase volume of trade-exchange and to work for eliminating all obstacles interrupting it.

The minutes included Iraq's and Saudi Arabia's confirmation on holding temporary and specialised commercial fairs, taking part in the regional and international fairs held in both countries and holding a trade week by each of them in Iraq and Saudi Arabia next year.

It also pointed to significance of exchanging visits and trade and industrial delegations aimed at strengthening ties between the two countries' businessmen and chambers of commerce and industry to realise development of business relations.

In exchanged addresses during the minutes' signing ceremony, the two ministers extolled the big efforts exerted by members of the committee to attain good results that would be an introduction for creating large spheres of cooperation in agricultural industrial and trade areas.

The two ministers expressed their hope that articles of the joint minutes would be enforced accurately and in the manner serving interests of both countries and peoples.

The committee began its meetings yesterday under co-chairmanship of Mr 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi oil minister, head of the Iraqi side, and Dr. Sulayman al-Sulayyim, Saudi trade minister, head of the Saudi side.

UN Envoy Meets With Eliasson on Talks With Iran

JN1805192989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] United Nations, 18 May (INA)—Jan Eliasson, special representative of the UN secretary general, met with 'Ismat Kittani, Iraq's representative to the United Nations; and 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari, Iraq's ambassador in Washington; in New York last night.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed preparations for the next round of negotiations between Iraq and Iran on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Eliasson also met with Iran's ambassador to the European UN Headquarters in Geneva for the same purpose.

The INA correspondent in Geneva cited a UN spokesman as saying that the date and venue of the next round of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran have not yet been determined.

Malaysian Finance Minister Arrives in Baghdad

JN1805112289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA)—Malaysian Finance Minister Daim bin Zainuddin arrived in Baghdad this afternoon heading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

He said his visit is aimed at enhancing and promoting bilateral relations in the economic and commercial fields.

He was received by Minister of Finance Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif and the Malaysian ambassador in Baghdad.

Concludes Visit, Departs 21 May

JN2105120989 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May. 21, INA—Daim bin Zainuddin, Malaysian minister of finance, and the accompanying delegation left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a four-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit, the Malaysian minister held talks with Iraqi officials on developing and promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Arens Discusses U.S. Role in Peace Initiative
TA1905192989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 19 May 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Nisim Mish'al, in Washington, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mish'al] James Baker did not demand clear answers on issues such as whether East Jerusalem Arabs will vote, supervision of the elections, and other issues. U.S. State Department officials say that the reason is the internal debate in the Likud. Baker does not want to burden Yitzhaq Shamir at this stage, knowing he is under fierce criticism.

[Arens] In fact, we did not go into detail. I told him that at this time—after Israel has presented its peace initiative—it is the United States' turn to do its part. It should demonstrate full and unreserved support for this initiative. It should undertake the tasks set out for it in the four parts of the initiative.

[Mish'al] Without going into details, as you say, the issue of elections might collapse, and with it the whole plan.

[Arens] Anything could collapse. That is why it is important that the United States gather support for this initiative; that it try to bring about positive responses from the Arab world on all that is related to the elections. The main point is that these elections, when held, be free and democratic. The only threat—and it is not the main threat, it is the only one—to the level of the freedom of these elections is the PLO and the terror which rages daily against the Palestinian population...

[Mish'al, interrupting] With your permission sir, let me rephrase the question. Are you aware of the fact that there is a series of questions that, if no answers are provided for them, will prevent the advancement of elections?

[Arens] No, I am not aware of it at all. And I repeat: If an attempt is made to divert attention from the main points of the initiative, which are clear and unequivocal, to debates and discussions of all sorts of details, this would be precisely the move that could torpedo the whole initiative.

[Mish'al] Is the secretary of state aware of the Likud internal debate concerning the elections?

[Arens] Yes, he is, and he realizes that the prime minister's step was a courageous one. It has exposed him to internal criticism. I also explained the criticism to him. I described the atrocities recently conducted by terrorists against Israeli soldiers and civilians. I told him that there are some in Israel who say that the time is not right for a peace initiative at all. Order must be restored first. We must prove that violence does not pay.

[Mish'al] Is he worried about the results of the voting in the Likud Central Committee?

[Arens] Is Mr Baker worried about these results? I am not sure that he is at all familiar with the Central Committee and its structure. I do not think that he should be worried.

[Mish'al] Are you?

[Arens] No, I am not worried because I am certain that it was Israel's most vital interests—the country's safety, Israel's international status, and the chance to pave the road to peace—that compelled us to undertake this initiative.

[Mish'al] How do you view the fact that the United States is actually negotiating the Israeli peace plan with the PLO?

[Arens] I have just ended a meeting with the secretary of state. It is possible that your assumption is correct. He did not tell me anything about it. He did not talk to me about holding negotiations with the PLO concerning the Israeli initiative.

[Mish'al] What is your reaction to statements made by the Egyptian president and King Husayn during the past 24 hours saying that they would support the Israeli plan only if the PLO accepts it?

[Arens] I have not heard this directly from the Egyptian president, and we maintain contacts with the Egyptians. We have no direct contacts with the Jordanians...

[Mish'al, interrupting] They made these statements public...

[Arens, interrupting] ...But whoever conditions his support for the Israeli initiative on the agreement of a terror organization, contributes to the initiative not being implemented. He does not help the peace process. I am, by the way, certain that President Mubarak wishes to contribute to the peace process. I hope that in talks with him—and we hope that a meeting between him and Israel's Prime Minister Shamir will be held—he will be convinced that such a position could not advance the peace process.

[Mish'al] Minister Ari'el Sharon said this week that the elections in the territories are a clear recipe for a Palestinian state. Do you accept this assertion.

[Arens] No, I do not accept this assertion whatsoever. I believe that without an Israeli initiative... had we not taken the initiative, many dangers—including a Palestinian state—would have gotten much closer. I believe that taking the initiative ourselves is the best recipe to protect our interests and avoid the threat of a Palestinian state.

[Mish'al] Thank you.

Shamir on Likud, U.S. Support for Initiative
TA2105063789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 May 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by program moderator Arye Golan in the studio, and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem, with comments by Shim'on Schiffer in Washington—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning to you, Mr Prime Minister. Good morning to you too, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Ben-'Ami] Good morning, Arye.

[Golan] Mr Shamir, you have emphasized again and again that your document is a peace initiative rather than a plan. The question is whether you can still add clauses to this initiative so as to eliminate Minister Levi's opposition and to prevent the danger of this initiative being rejected in the Likud's Central Committee by the joint Sharon and Levi camps?

[Shamir] I repeat what I stated in the Knesset too: This is still just an initiative. I would say this is an initiative made up of ideas with which we appear on the international arena. We have not yet obtained the compliance of any potential negotiating party. Therefore, I declared in the Knesset that I propose that all segments of the public refrain from fierce infighting as long as there is no certainty that the initiative will turn into a reality.

[Golan] Is it possible to add a clause to the initiative document that will stipulate the cessation of the uprising, of the intifadah, as a condition for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as an unequivocal clarification that the East Jerusalem residents will not participate in the elections, as demanded by Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i?

[Shamir] I do not know of such demands. Still, I do not have a problem with these positions. In my comments on the initiative—this is clear in the initiative itself—I stated that negotiations, preparations for elections, and elections cannot be conducted in an atmosphere of violence, that they cannot coexist with the so-called intifadah. As for my position on East Jerusalem, it has always been clear, and it is unchanged. It was not included in the initiative paper because this paper reflects the agreement of all government components, and there are disagreements on this issue.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, this is a political struggle, all in all. In the past, David Levi helped you at the Yad Eliyahu Stadium hall on that evening when the Likud team for the formation of the government was agreed upon. Still, since this is a political struggle, do you see a way of persuading David Levi to join the supporters' camp and leave the opponents' camp? This is expected to involve a certain political price.

[Shamir] I have not yet met my deputy as chairman of the Likud's Executive. More than once we have held intimate consultations on most important issues; more than once Minister David Levi was the first person with whom I shared the most important, sometimes the most secret, state affairs. I was never disappointed; he never publicized anything he should not have. Therefore, I think that he and I will be able to hold a very open, serious, and thorough talk today. I am sure that what will guide him is what is guiding me: the general cause, the good of the people and the state.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, will you go to the president and submit your resignation if your initiative is not adopted at the Likud's Central Committee? This was announced by your bureau director, Yosi Ahime'ir, just last week?

[Shamir] Well, I did not express myself so. It all depends on what will be proposed and decided. Of course, I will not be able to carry on with my duties if I do not feel that the movement which I represent in the government supports me.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, do you think that in this committee's meeting you will be able to have the initiative upheld, that you will receive the Likud's support?

[Shamir] I believe so. I think that I have always operated in the spirit of those principles that have always guided the Likud.

[Ben-'Ami] It is difficult to say that what we hear from Washington this morning is encouraging. If U.S. Secretary of State James Baker says he will be unable to publicly support your initiative since the key questions are not solved on it, it will then be difficult to enlist the support of the United States and perhaps also of part of Europe for this initiative.

[Shamir] I would not rely on this incomplete report today. To the best of my knowledge to date and on the basis of my and the foreign minister's talks with U.S. Administration leaders, the U.S. Government supports our initiative. This does not mean that there can be no disagreements on certain issues, but one may say that the U.S. Government supports the initiative.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, our correspondent in the United States Shim'on Schiffer is on another telephone line at the moment, and with your permission we will hear from him what he, as a journalist, knows about this issue of the U.S. position, before we carry on with our talk.

[Schiffer] This evening, in a talk I held with one of Secretary Baker's close advisers, he told me as follows: The Israeli leaders require our full endorsement [last two

words in English] of the Israeli plan, and we will be unable to do this. The adviser added that in an appearance before the annual conference of the Jewish lobby tomorrow, Secretary Baker will not be able to give full public support for the Israeli initiative since, according to him, it contains several basic questions that have not been completely formulated or answered yet. Therefore, the full public support which Israel so desires now will not be given, and the emphasis is on the word full, not on general support for the ideas themselves.

[Golan] Does this worry you, Mr Prime Minister?

[Shamir] No, this does not worry me. It sounds quite clear and understandable. The support is general and in principle, and there is simply no room for getting support on every detail when we have not yet discussed the details. We are also telling our U.S. friends that we will not be ready to discuss specifics as long as the Arab side has not yet accepted the entire plan in principle.

[Golan] In the meantime, the Arab side is moving into the use of firearms. Is this a new stage in the intifadah, Mr Shamir?

[Shamir] I do not know the difference between intifadah and terror. If there are any differences, they are very fine ones. We know that the terror organizations are very active participants in all the intifadah stages. I know that up till now they have perpetrated murders in this overall context called intifadah. The murders are perpetrated among Arabs, in particular, but are murders nevertheless. They stock up on arms, smuggle weapons into Israel, and prepare terrorist and murderous acts. I would not suggest that any of us look for any differences and stages. We should operate firmly and persistently in order to eliminate this dangerous phenomenon.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you are leaving for Europe this evening in order to enlist the support of your colleagues, the European heads of state. First, I would like to personally ask you how you feel about arriving in Britain as the Israeli prime minister and meeting with the British prime minister. In fact, the visit breaks the historical ice [reference to Shamir's days in the Irgun and his fight against the British mandate in Palestine].

[Shamir] This is not not my first visit to Britain. I have visited this country and met its leaders several times already. You know that I am not normally inclined toward dwelling in the past.

[Ben-'Ami] Your hosts will surely remind you of it.

[Shamir] If they want to do so, I will not avoid the subject. I am proud of my past activities.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, both British Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Spanish Foreign Affairs Minister Fernandez-Ordonez have already expressed their support for the election idea in principle. Should you not then direct your efforts at those rejectionist countries such as France and the FRG?

[Shamir] First, I am traveling to these destinations at their leaders' invitation. They invited me, and I think they have good reasons to want to meet and talk with me. We will discuss the situation. There are many disagreements between us, especially regarding their attitude to the PLO, and their general attitude to all of Israel's current positions.

[Golan] Mr Prime Minister, we thank you for this interview, and wish you a good trip to Europe. Thank you too, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Shamir] Thank you too.

[Ben-'Ami] You are welcome.

Shamir on Opposition to Plan

TA2105173889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir is on his way to Europe, to seek support for his peace initiative. The prime minister will be making official visits to Britain, and then to Spain, which is the current chairman of the Common Market.

The prime minister says he will be presenting the Israeli peace proposals as a representative of the government which adopted them. As for the divisions in his Likud Party over the initiative, Shamir says it is too early to say what will be the final position of the party. Before leaving, the prime minister answered questions from our reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, you are going abroad to seek support for the Israeli peace initiative. At the same time, there is a certain amount of division here at home with regard to it. How will you answer people who point this out and say that even in your own party, the peace initiative does not have full support?

[Shamir] Well, we are a democracy, as you know, and there could be differences of views also in my party. It is not surprising. We will have to discuss it and to get the conclusions.

[Ben-'Ami] You met today with David Levi, who said he continues to oppose the plan, and you will be having a meeting with the Likud Central Committee when you return. If the committee should vote against the plan, what then?

[Shamir] It is too early to speak about it. On my return, I will meet again with Minister David Levi, we will continue our discussions, and then we will see when will we convene the Central Committee of the Likud, and what will be on the agenda.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to ask also if you share the opinion of some that there has been a change in the situation in the territories, following the armed clash between a Palestinian gang and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on Friday. Do you see a new phase in the intifadah [uprising], and are you also sharing the criticism of the army and General Shomron?

[Shamir] No, I don't share any criticism of the IDF. I think the IDF and the other security services are doing their best in order to fight against the uprising, and they will continue to do it. I don't see any basic change in this phenomenon. [end recording]

'Sources' Say PLO Willing To Adopt Rabin Plan

TA2205052789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 89 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] The PLO, under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat, is ready to support the peace plan that would be launched with elections in the territories, and continued with negotiations for a transitional period. It will do so under the condition that the United States guarantee a priori that the process will be concluded with a permanent settlement based on the principle of territories for peace and political rights for the Palestinians.

This information, provided by reliable intelligence sources, has recently reached Jerusalem. Senior political elements have said that the 'Arafat-led PLO has thus agreed to adopt Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's plan, which includes a framework for a final settlement as well as elections. In addition, the PLO is demanding international supervision over the elections, in which East Jerusalem residents would also be invited to participate. While Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has so far disapproved of these elements, the Alignment leaders are willing to support them. [passage omitted]

'Uprising' Call No 40 Rejects Elections

JN2105061689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0430 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The Unified National Leadership behind the events in the region has utterly rejected the Israeli peace inititative and the idea of holding elections in the region. This came in a new call carrying the number 40, which was distributed in the region yesterday.

The PLO in Tunis has renewed its rejection of the Israeli peace initiative and expressed once again its oppostion to holding elections in the region. The PLO Executive Committee sent a memorandum to the United States on this issue. This was delivered by PLO Tunis representative Hakam Bal'awi the night before last to U.S. Ambassador in Tunis Robert Pelletreau.

Temple Mount Restrictions on Friday Prayers Eased

TA1905193889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] After several weeks of serious security precautions on the Temple Mount, the police today started trying to make these arrangements more flexible. Our police affairs correspondent reports that the 5,000 Muslim worshippers who arrived at the Temple Mount were not asked to deposit their identity cards upon entering the mosques. Also, most of those coming from Judaea and Samaria were allowed entry. The prayers passed quietly. A large force of policemen and border policemen who were kept on alert were not required to interfere.

IDF Expands House Demolition Policy

TA2105120689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 May 89 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[Excerpts] The IDF [Israel Defense Force] has decided to strengthen its policy of demolishing houses in the territories. The first expression of this harsher position was given on Friday, when the houses of two Palestinians who had unsuccessfully attempted to attack IDF soldiers were destroyed.

Up to now, the IDF, as a rule, destroyed houses only in instances of murder or the hurling of firebombs—and in the rare occasions when stone throwing caused fatal injuries. [passage omitted]

According to the new policy, houses will be destroyed even in cases of mere stone throwing or other attacks that do not cause serious injury. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 21 May in a page 3 report by Avi Bnayahu quotes 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, as saying: "This is the first time that we have blown up the houses of people who attempted to harm our soldiers. We will exact a heavy price from anyone who tries to injure our troops, but at the same time we will operate with the utmost caution and in a selective manner."]

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

5 'Terrorists' Houses Destroyed

TA1905183189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Today the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] demolished five houses belonging to terrorists in the villages of 'Idnah and Nuba in the Hebron District. Three of the houses demolished belonged to the terrorists who were killed today by an IDF unit in a clash in Bayt Awla. The

other demolished houses belonged to two other terror squad members who were detained in the past few months by the security forces.

4 Killed, 4 Hurt in Rafah Clash

TA2005042689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Four people were killed in Rafah yesterday in a violent clash between local residents and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces. An IDF patrol which was traveling through the Shabura neighborhood was attacked by hundreds of rioters with large stones and sharp items. The force had to open fire, using plastic bullets. Four of the residents were killed, and another four were wounded as a result of the firing. The curfew in the area is continuing. This has been announced by the IDF spokesman.

Arab Dies of Wounds

TA2005072489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] A youth, a resident of the village of Al-Khidr near Bethlehem who was wounded in the course of disturbances 10 days ago, died of his wounds in Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on the village so as to prevent riots.

The lives of collaborators with the Israeli authorities are threatened in the Galilee village of Bi'na. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that threats to liquidate the collaborators were painted on walls of the local school, alongside slogans denouncing the state and supporting the PLO. Declarations such as "Long Live the Uprising" and "All of Falastin Is Fatah" were also inscribed.

Gaza Curfew Lifted

TA2105052389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The curfew was lifted from the Gaza Strip this morning, except for the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah where severe riots took place last Friday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that upon the lifting of the curfew the Arab residents were allowed to leave for Israel for work, but only a few did so.

An Arab youth was killed in disturbances in the Jabalyah refugee camp yesterday by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] firing. Army sources told our correspondent that the youth was identified as one of the instigators in a group of youths who hurled stones at an IDF patrol. He was shot with a plastic bullet and died of his wounds.

A leaflet was distributed in Judaea and Samaria on behalf of the leadership of the uprising. The leaflet rejects outright Israel's political plan, including the proposal on elections in the territories.

Further on 20 May Incidents

TA2105064889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] Six Palestinians, including a 12-year-old boy, were shot and killed by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] forces in the Gaza Strip over the weekend after masses of residents defied the curfew by coming out of their homes and attacking troops with stones. [passage omitted]

Hospital officials said at least 46 Palestinians were injured over the weekend, while the IDF put the total at four. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank, the IDF launched fresh raids on villages to arrest wanted youths. Raids were reported at 'Arravah near Janin, Kafr Salim near Nabulus, and at Kubar [name as published] near Ramallah. [passage omitted].

In Nabulus, local sources reported a march by over 100 activists of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine protesting the diplomatic policy of PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat.

In West Bank clashes yesterday, three Palestinians were reported wounded in Ramallah, one in Janin, and one in Nabulus.

New Curfews Imposed on Gaza

TA2105143389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 89

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpt] New curfews were clamped today on the al-Mughazi and al-Burayj refugee camps in the central Gaza Strip, in addition to the curfew in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah which remains in effect.

Since the general curfew in the Strip was lifted early this morning and the closure was discontinued, only a few dozen local vehicles transporting workers left for Israel. Others heeded the general strike instructions issued by various organizations in the territories. Those who did leave met with several tire-burning and stone-throwing inhabitants of Ashqelon. Gaza drivers retraced their steps even before the police dispersed the Israeli demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Hunger Strike at Qezi'ot Prison

TA2105100289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 89 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Thousands of prisoners in the Qezi'ot detention facility (Ansar 3) began a hunger strike on Friday. The hunger strike was declared for an unlimited period.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman at the Southern Command admitted that a hunger strike has indeed been declared in the prison and claimed it is against the background of the prisoners' demand to make their conditions equal to those of the administrative detainees.

Further on Hunger Strike

TA2205102389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 89 p 10

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Two sections in Qezi'ot detention camp in the Negev have been on a hunger strike for several days demanding improved living conditions.

Detainees numbering 1,200 in Section 1 started their strike last Wednesday, and the 800 inmates of Section 2 joined on Friday.

About a hundred detainees have been suffering from dehydration, according to camp sources.

Camp authorities have not made any contact with the sections' leaders. Medical treatment, however, is reportedly available, and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said all detainees receive maximal conditions.

The demands include better food, more hot water, paved areas between the tents, a radio, electricity inside the tents, a soccer ball and visits by relatives.

The detainees are also demanding that an MK [Knesset Member] carry out negotiations between them and camp authorities.

A death last week at the Megiddo detention camp, south of 'Afula, is understood to be among the reasons for the strike. A 50-year-old man died there of dehydration during a hunger strike.

According to the sources at the camp, another reason is the tough measures taken by a new military police unit that was recently brought in. The sources said that more inmates are now being sent to solitary confinement, and on more than one occasion up to 12 prisoners were put in 2-by-2.5-meter rooms.

2 Arabs Die of Wounds

TA2005113189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Another two who were wounded in incidents recently died in Judaea and Gaza this morning. A 12-year-old youth, Nazmi Abu Hatlah of Rafah, died at al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. This brings to five the number of dead in the incident which took place at the Shabura neighborhood in Rafah yesterday. This is reported by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman.

A youth of Al-Khidr village near Bethlehem who was wounded about 10 days ago died at an East Jerusalem hospital this morning. The IDF clamped a curfew on the village to prevent riots.

The heads of the Arab public have asked the police affairs minister to instruct that the wave of detentions in their villages be stemmed and that action be taken to prevent provocations against Arabs in mixed towns in Israel. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the Committee for the Defense of Arab Lands is initiating demonstrations and protest rallies in various places, in addition to the demonstration which took place in Nazareth yesterday that was attended by thousands of people. Our correspondent notes that about 100 Arabs have been detained this past week for rioting during soccer games, throwing Molotov cocktails and stones at vehicles, and hoisting the PLO flag, but more than half of them have been released already.

Hamas Leader Detained

TA2105180989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Security forces recently uncovered a large terrorist squad belonging to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organization in the Gaza Strip. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, Hamas spiritual leader in the Strip, was among the detainees. He is suspected of ordering the murder of residents suspected of collaborating with Israel. Our military affairs correspondent 'Amos Har'el has the details:

The wide-ranging organization recently uncovered by the security forces in the Gaza Strip included a large number of squads that operated in different Gaza Strip areas. This is, in fact, the exposure of the military arm of Hamas, the extremist Islamic organization.

The organization had dozens of members and was headed by Shaykh Ahmad Hasan Yasin, resident of Gaza City. Yasin, the leader of the Gaza Strip Hamas, was recently detained.

The detained squad members are suspected of a number of terrorist attacks. One of them is the assassination of several residents whom they suspected of collaboration with the authorities. The security forces believe that the direct orders to murder were issued by Shaykh Yasin himself.

Members of another squad had placed two explosive charges and thrown two other charges at IDF patrols in the al-Burayj refugee camp. They also set fire to fields inside Israel.

Another squad fired at an Israeli who was working at a water-drilling site in northern Gaza last March. Its members also fired at an Israeli vehicle along the Erez-al-Shaja'iyah road.

The detained suspects had in their possession a large quantity of different kinds of weapons, including handguns, Galils, M-16's, Kalashnikovs, and Uzis. Also, they disseminated leaflets, threw stones, erected barricades, torched shops, and dealt with the interrogation and beating of suspected collaborators.

In the wake of the detentions and ensuing interrogation, dozens of additional organization members were detained. The investigation is continuing, and the security forces are looking into the detainees' possible involvement in other terrorist acts in Israel and the Gaza Strip.

Youth Killed, Curfew Imposed

TA2105191989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] A 19-year-old resident was killed this evening in the village of Abu Dis near Jerusalem, probably by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF patrol confronted a group of masked youths; it was later reported from al-Maqasid Hospital that one man was killed in the incident. A curfew was imposed on the village.

Further on 21 May Incidents

TA2205070889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 May 89 p 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Two Palestinians, both teenagers, were shot and killed in clashes with troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday. Most of the Strip's residents did not go back to their jobs inside the Green Line despite the lifting of the lengthy curfew yesterday morning.

At Abu-Dis, east of Jerusalem, Hatam 'Ariqat, 16, was shot and killed in clashes between troops and masked youths yesterday during a general strike in the territories called in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners. Palestinians said another seven persons were wounded in the clash, and in violence during 'Ariqat's funeral a further eight persons were wounded. A curfew was imposed on Abu-Dis.

Palestinians said that during clashes in neighboring al-'Azariyah, masked youths imposed a curfew in order to leave the streets empty to fight troops. OC [Commanding Officer] Central Command 'Amram Mitzna' confirmed this week that Palestinian activists have imposed curfews on West Bank villages. He said the gunmen killed Friday at Bayt Awla had attacked persons violating such curfews in the Hebron area.

IDF curfews remained in force on the villages of Idnah and Nuba near Hebron, where the gunmen's homes were demolished on Friday. Police are trying to identify the source of the IDF-issue weapons used by the gunmen. MK [Knesset Member] Ran Kohen (Citizens' Rights) said he had information that the weapons had been stolen from arms depots at Jerusalem settlements.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 22 May 89 reports that "The M16 found in the possession of the terrorist squad, which had been liquidated in Hebron Hills last weekend, belonged to the Army Northern brigade and had disappeared during the Lebanon war." An investigation shows that "Arabs had already used the weapon at least once, when firing at Arabs in Tulkarm some 4 years ago."]

At Rujayb, near Nabulus, residents reported that a wheat field was set on fire after a settler's car was stoned near the village. A Border Police patrol helped villagers douse the flames. [passage omitted]

The Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm has been under curfew for 20 days, and the Tulkarm refugee camp for eight days.

In Bethlehem, a 17-year-old was wounded in the chest, and in Tulkarm an 18-year-old girl was shot in the eye with a steel marble.

In clashes all over the Gaza Strip, troops shot and killed one Palestinian—'Isam 'Aql, 17, from al-Nusayrat—and wounded 25 others, according to Palestinian sources. The IDF spokesman confirmed the killing.

The curfew was lifted from the strip yesterday although a general strike had been called by the uprising leadership. Despite the need for money after a long curfew, only several dozen cars were monitored by soldiers at the Erez checkpoint, crossing the border into Israel. [passage omitted]

During the curfew, the Army sprayed black paint and a black greasy substance on the ground, walls and shopgates along the two main streets of Gaza. The IDF spokesman said that the paint was sprayed to cover graffiti. The greasy substance, according to the spokesman, was sprayed in corners at known trouble spots in order to prevent demonstrators from climbing the walls in order to escape. [passage omitted]

Settlers Protest Near Arab Town

TA2205044289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Hundreds of angry Ma'ale Adummim residents staged a demonstration on the outskirts of the Arab village of al-'Azariyah southeast of Jerusalem last night. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that great numbers of police and Border Police halted the demonstrators at the village entrance. When they refused to leave the area, they were dispersed with tear gas. Some of the demonstrators set fire to dry

branches at the village entrance and tried to damage Arab cars. The angry demonstrators called out: "Death to the Arabs," and "Revenge."

The Ma'ale Adummim demonstration came in the wake of the injury of four members of one family, whose car rolled down a ravine after stones were hurled at them yesterday. The father of the family is now hospitalized with a fractured skull in Hadassah-'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. The mother and her two children, 1- and 3-and-1/2-years old, are also hospitalized. Their injuries are slight to moderate.

5 Fatah Members Indicted

TA2205105389 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 May 89 p 14

[Report by Yisra'el Peretz]

[Text] Yesterday the Lod Military Court sentenced Majid Khalaf, a 28-year-old Bedouin tracker from the village of Ibthan near Haifa, to 10 years in prison for stealing hand grenades during his service in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], and selling them to Bedouins from his village who were members of the Fatah organization. One of those stolen grenades was used in the attack carried out in Haifa in August 1988 in which 25 people were wounded. Khalaf was detained at the end of 1988.

Captain Ron Shapira, the military prosecutor, claimed at the trial that Khalaf's punishment should be severe because he still serves in the IDF as a reservist, and is an Israeli citizen.

Indictments against five Fatah members were filed at the Lod Military Court yesterday. The five are charged with planting bombs in bread boxes sent to grocery stores in Jerusalem. The explosion of the bombs resulted in the wounding of three girls in October 1988.

The five were detained in May 1989. The indictments claim that on 2 October 1988 two bombs exploded, one in a supermarket in the Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem, and the other in the Me'a She'arim neighborhood in the city where the three girls were wounded. The date for their trial has not yet been set.

The Lod Military Court yesterday extended the detention of Fatah member Ghad Jamil Jaradi, aged 38, from the village of al-Fari'ah, pending the completion of legal proceedings. He is charged with transferring $220,000 in cash to finance the uprising. He received the money from Dr Sari Nusaybah. He is also charged with passing out the drafts of leaflets No's 32 and 33 of the uprising leadership, and of disseminating them.

Shots Fired at Soldiers

TA2205110589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Shots from light weapons were fired around 0930 this morning at soldiers standing at the hitchhiking station of the Nevatim Air Base on the Beersheba-'Arad highway. The soldiers were not hurt. Police and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops blocked all the roads in the area, and the police launched an investigation. According to information gathered so far, the shots were fired by somebody with an Arabic appearance who immediately fled in his car. Soldiers escorted by policemen are currently searching for the perpetrators, but so far without result.

A police patrol this morning reported being fired upon in the Bethlehem area. There were no casualties. The IDF closed off the area and launched searches.

Arab Killed, Soldier Wounded

TA2205161989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] A 42-year-old Arab from the village of Dura in the Hebron area was killed this afternoon by stones thrown at him on the Ashqelon-Qiryat Gat road. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the man was wounded, and was transferred to Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon where he died of his wounds. Roadblocks have been erected in the vicinity of the incident, and a large number of army, police, and Border Police troops are searching for the perpetrators. Our correspondent points out that the stones were apparently thrown from a car driving by.

A soldier was wounded in the head this afternoon by a stone thrown at him near the village of Yattah in the Hebron District. The soldier, who apparently sustained a fractured skull, was taken by helicopter to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

King Husayn Leaves for Casablanca Summit 22 May
JN2205102789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman for Casablanca in the Kingdom of Morocco this morning to head Jordan's delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit, which will begin tomorrow and last 2 days.

The summit, called by His Majesty King Hassan II, will discuss three major topics: the Palestinian cause, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iraq-Iran war. Egypt, represented by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, is participating in the summit for the first time since 1979.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, His Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn, the president of the Senate, the chief chamberlain, ministers, state and military officials, and the Moroccan charge d'affaires in Amman.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in before his majesty and the cabinet as regent during his majesty's trip abroad.

The Jordanian delegation to the summit comprises his excellency the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty's political adviser, his majesty's personal adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Public Security Head Discusses April Riots
JN2205091189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 May 89 pp 7, 16

[Interview with Staff General 'Abd-al-Hadi al-Majali, Public Security director, by correspondents in Amman, published within weekly "Dialogue With Public Officials" feature; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] SAWT AL-SHA'B: Some citizens have accused security men of exacerbating the situation in some areas. What is your response, especially as firearms were used. The question in other words is: What happened in Ma'an?

Gen al-Majali: Here is a summary of happened in Ma'an: Some citizens made reasonable demands, which reached the competent quarters. Solutions were about to be conveyed to them. However, they rushed matters. They staged a demonstration that morning. They went to the schools and got students out to participate in the demonstrations, which were later joined by opportunists and criminals. The security forces prevented them from carrying out acts of sabotage and warned them more than once. Hand-to-hand fighting took place on the streets of Ma'an before firing began. The demonstrators attacked the police department and governorate building, which is a state security center. One hour after the incident, I myself saw the damage inflicted on the windows of the building, which shows that the demonstrators came within 50-60 meters of the building. In view of the advance of the crowd, the security men were forced to fire in the air to obstruct their advance and prevent them from attacking the building. Strict orders were issued to all public security personnel not to open fire under any circumstances.

Although many public security personnel were attacked and were defending themselves, they complied fully with their instructions. The three persons who were killed were not among the demonstrators. I am sure they were killed with stray bullets. Afterwards, shots were fired by both sides—intensely from Ma'an district and houses. Citizens were hit by bullets fired in the air. Many cases have proved that bullets fired at no specific target can hit innocent persons. I would like to state that no orders to open fire were given by any official. Orders were given to treat citizens well. However, citzens should know that acts of sabotage are against their interests and that they should refrain from acts that harm the interests of others and the private and public institutions. What is the fault of the citizen whose house has been robbed?

SAWT AL-SHA'B: In the city of Al-Salt, it is being said that some security men provoked the citizens, resulting in a worse incidents. How true is this?

Gen al-Majali: This is absolutely untrue. This is because the Al-Salt incidents began at 1230, that is after the Friday prayers. We had earlier received information about possible demonstrations by worshippers. Some governorate officials believed that it was necessary to permit a procession to express demands, without carrying out any disturbances.

However, we had a different opinion for one reason; namely, in this country we have not reached a stage in which we can be sure that a demonstration is being staged without exploitation from other parties. Consequently, there was a possibility that the demonstration would escalate and deviate from its declared objectives. What happened later confirmed our fears. The security men then intervened and could not control the abnormal situation. We were forced to dispatch forces from Amman. The forces arrived in Al-Salt and dispersed the demonstration without inflicting direct casualties on the citizens. The casualties among the security men were three times greater than those among the citizens in the various areas where the disturbances took place. There were 80 injuries among the Public Security men, while 23 citizens were injured. And by injuries I mean here those who were hit by stones as well as injuries resulting from fractures or ankle twisting. These injuries are slight but inconvenient at the same time. This was the outcome because our objective was to contain the honest people and to separate them from those with bad intentions. And the number of those with bad intentions were very few, praise be to God.

The measures aimed at ending the regrettable incidents were implemented in a civilized manner and were received in a good manner. We are proud of this. And the many casualties among the security men show their self-restraint and concern for the safety of the demonstrators above anything else.

SAWT AL-SHA'B: After his meeting with Al-Salt citizens, His Majesty King Husayn promised to release all the detainees in the recent incidents. Have all the detainees been released?

Gen al-Majali: All citizens arrested in the recent incidents were released the next day. We are holding no one in connection with the recent incidents. We have other detainees, but they were not connected with the recent incidents. [passage omitted]

SAWT AL-SHA'B: Some expatriate workers in Jordan have begun to purchase gold instead of dollars, it is rumored. Would you clarify this?

Gen al-Majali: We have information indicating that all expatriates in Jordan transfer their salaries to dollars within a specific system. However, some expatriates purchase gold. Those who purchase gold have been arrested. We can investigate into the information we receive and arrest those trading with gold. We are in full understanding with jewelers. We are informed of any suspect operation to sell or purchase gold. We are monitoring this matter and paying great attention to it. The recent limited attempts of smuggling were discovered and put into the hands of the authorities.

'Informed Sources' Say 13 Detainees Released

JN2205064289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 May 89 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—The government Sunday freed 13 people, mostly university students, detained during the riots that hit several towns in the Kingdom's south as well as Al-Salt near the capital last month, informed sources told the JORDAN TIMES.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the release came in line with instructions issued by His Majesty King Husayn earlier this month.

The sources added that 55 other detainees were released following the directive, which was announced during a meeting with a delegation from Al-Salt. [passage omitted]

PLO Official 'Dubious' About Recent Kidnapping

LD1905111289 Hamburg DPA in German 0955 GMT 19 May 89

[Excerpt] Beirut (DPA)—A leading PLO official in Lebanon expressed doubt today about the circumstances of the abduction of two Federal German citizens in southern Lebanon. Abu 'Ali Wajih, head of the PLO's security troops in Lebanon, described as dubious the report of ASME-Humanitas worker Petra Schnitzler (26) on the kidnapping of her two colleagues Heinrich Struebig (48) and Thomas Kemptner (28), to journalists in Sidon. Mrs Schnitzler categorically rejected these doubts.

Wajih said it is "surprising" that the ASME workers had not requested any protection from the PLO forces for the period in which the kidnapping had been reported, contrary to customary practice. "We are certain that the [word indistinct] know who the kidnappers are, but have not given us any details," Wajih said. He had asked the ASME workers to leave the Palestinian camp near Sidon, because the "PLO can no longer bear the responsibility for their stay."

Mrs Schnitzler contradicted the PLO official's remarks vehemently, and said that they are "completely untrue." Her organization has no knowledge of the background of the kidnapping. They have received neither messages nor explanations from the kidnappers. "We want to learn the truth and would like to know what is behind the kidnapping of the ASME workers."

In Bonn security circles, the "circumstances" of the latest kidnapping of ASME workers are considered to be "somewhat strange." It is not possible to say whether this is, in fact, a case of "staging" [inszenierung]. Speculation among wide circles in Lebanon ranges from "staging" to a kidnapping by the extremist pro-Iranian Hizballah (Party of God). [passage omitted]

Further on Kidnapping

LD1905145189 Hamburg DPA in German 1354 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Stadtallendorf (DPA)—Five volunteer workers for the private aid organization ASME-Humanitas were coerced by force of weapons yesterday evening to leave their base in Camp Contessa in South Lebanon, according to ASME Director Dagmar Nackunstz. Mrs Nackunstz said this today to the press in Stadtallendorf (Hessen) after telephoning ASME worker Petra Schnitzler. Mrs Schnitzler is heading the deployment of the aid organization on site and had been, according to her own information, the victim of short-term kidnappings twice in the last 2 weeks.

Mrs Schnitzler reported that PLO security chief Abu 'Ali Wajih, came into the camp yesterday evening with armed PLO fighters and gave the workers one hour to pack their personal effects. He justified this with the fact that the PLO can no longer guarantee the safety of the ASME workers. These were driven in the night to another camp about 1 km south of Sidon. The director was unable to say today whether ASME-Humanitas will remain in south Lebanon. "This depends on the further development in south Lebanon," Mrs Nackunstz said.

Organization Evacuates Camp

NC1905170789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The ASME-Humanitas Organization has evacuated its centers in the Al-Miyah wa Miyah Camp southeast of Sidon in the wake of the abduction of two of its employees 3 days ago.

3 Workers Leave for Cyprus

NC2205053589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Three West German nationals working for the ASME-Humanitas Agency for the relief of Palestinian refugees in Sidon left on a boat that took them to a ship headed for Cyprus yesterday.

British Ambassador Appeals for Hostages' Release

NC2205122889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Appeal made by British Ambassador in Lebanon Alan Ramsey for the release of British hostages in Lebanon—recorded]

[Text] At the beginning of this year I addressed an appeal regarding the British hostages and all other hostages in Lebanon. The successive and encouraging reaction that followed made a good impression on our hearts. However, our nationals have remained hostages and a fourth may have joined them.

Mr Jack Mann disappeared in West Beirut on Friday 12 May. He has not been seen since then. In the absence of any explanation for his disappearance, the possibility exists that he was kidnapped. Although no organization has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of Jack Mann, an unknown group calling itself the Armed Struggle Cells has claimed that it is holding a British hostage and has submitted certain demands.

Jack Mann is 75 years old. He and his wife have lived in Beirut since the end of World War II. After honorable service in the Royal Air Force, he joined the crew of Middle East Airlines. Lebanon has been the pivot of his life. Here is his home. The couple's feeling of safety here was strong and their confidence that they were living among friends was absolute. This confidence has now been stabbed to its core and in a way the least that can be said about it is that it is shameful.

I hope I am wrong in my thoughts and there are other reasons for his disappearance. However, if it is true that he was kidnapped, I can only repeat what I have said

previously; namely, that such acts are of no avail. My government does not conclude deals regarding the hostages. Therefore, we call for the immediate release of these hostages on the basis of human justice and respect for the rights of the individual. We demand this for all the other hostages, wherever they are and without discrimination.

I only want to add that the kidnapping of hostages and all the threats directed at an individual's freedom and life are unreservedly denounced acts. There must be something wrong in the thinking of those who believe that by kidnapping a 75-year-old man they can further their aims. The same denunciation also applies to all those who encourage, direct, protect, and guide people like these.

No noble purpose justifies resorting to such methods. It is very important for us to stress that an entire community should not be denounced as a result of the action of a minority within it.

It is the duty of all those who are in positions of responsibility, and all influential and capable figures, to prevent such acts. The best solution lies in the immediate release of Jack Mann and his safe and sound return to his wife. It also lies in the return of the other hostages to their families. Thank you very much.

Al-Huss Sends Memorandum to Arab Summit

NC2005103789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has sent a memorandum to the extraordinary Arab summit [to convene in Casablanca] explaining the reasons for the Lebanese crisis and calling on the conferees to give top priority to Lebanon and its cause. The cable reads:

1. The essence of the crisis: In its historical aspect, the issue assumes the character of the Zionist challenge to the Arab nation. The concentration on Lebanon is because it constitutes the weak link in the Arab chain and is a model of coexistence that is the antithesis of the fascist Zionist model.

In its internal aspect, the Lebanese issue revolves around the rights of man in his homeland. The sectarian system in force has created an organic flaw in the regime's performance in a manner which has often pushed the country to acute political crises and at times to disastrous situations because of the imbalance or inequity between the powers and responsibilities.

2. The reality of the crisis: The crisis reached its most dangerous phase after the failure to meet the constitutional deadline of electing a president of the republic before 23 September 1988.

3. The cherished solution: Any solution begins by an agreement on the course of action to deal with the causes of the crisis and annul its effects or its manifestations simultaneously. This course must lead to a conciliatory, reformative plan that will remove the causes of complaint from the political system; consolidate the foundations of coexistence, and, consequently, the unity of Lebanon as a homeland, society, and state; and entrench Lebanon's Arabism, identity, and affiliation. It must also lead to an agreement on steps or stages for a solution, starting with the election of the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and his staff and ending with the endorsement of a political and constitutional reformative formula on which there is agreement.

4. The way to reconciliation: The hope is here pinned on the Arab committee for liaison and good offices, which the Arab League's council has formed.

5. The liberation: It is our understanding that liberation means one thing. It is the liberation of the Lebanese soil from the Israeli occupation and of the Lebanese will from the penetrations of Israel and its agents. The starting point is the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978 and support for the national resistance.

'Awn Addresses Message to Arab Summit

NC2005160889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 May 89

[Message from Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn to the Arab kings and presidents due to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Morocco on 23 May, read by Gen 'Awn during a news conference in Beirut on 20 May—recorded]

[Text] O brothers, this is a historic event. Your conference will make the Arab League a touchstone of the credibility of Arab solidarity and must provide a justification for the existence, survival, and future of the League. The Arab family must either be able to resolve its internal problems and deal with the anomalous situation that exists among its member or, God forbid, prove its impotence, which would lead to a sense of frustration and to a collapse of confidence on the part of every Arab from the ocean to the Gulf. This conference is a crossroads for Lebanon, but it is even more of a crossroads for the Arab League, its reputation, and its very survival.

O brothers, it is true that pan-Arab duty, especially in these circumstances, is to preserve Arab solidarity within the possible and acceptable limits. However, this duty does not and must not allow the sacrifice of one of the founding members of the Arab League, which is the embodiment and symbol of this solidarity, for the sake of a formal salvage of a charter unable to justify itself.

O brothers, as soon as it was formed, the Lebanese Government clearly announced the general outlines of its internal, Arab, and international policy. It is a policy marked by openness and positiveness toward all Lebanese and Arab parties. The priorities of this policy were documented in all the memorandums and messages

addressed to the Arab League, the United Nations, and fraternal and friendly leaders. Also, we declared this positive policy with the utmost frankness and sincerity at the Tunis meetings and other discussions that were held with us later. Perhaps the honorable members of the Arab good offices committee and the Arab League delegates are the best persons to testify how positive our approach has been to all the efforts and proposals aiming to help us resolve our problem.

As soon as the aforementioned committee appealed to us to cease fire, we were quick to respond and quick to implement a cease-fire. However, the Syrian Army, whether directly or indirectly, through its tools, began to violate the cease-fire. Despite this, we chose not to retaliate for 6 consecutive days, during which the Syrian Army continued its acts of aggression, inflicting destructive shelling on the residential areas, economic infrastructure, and medical and humanitarian institutions.

When cease-fire calls were issued by his excellency the Arab League secretary general, we hastened to comply with them, while the Syrian guns continued their acts of aggression. When the Arab foreign ministers council resolutions were released, we welcomed them and received them with the utmost positiveness, warning against Syrian attempts to hamper these efforts. Meanwhile, the Syrian guns continued and still are continuing their violations and blockade.

Throughout all this, we heard no calls for adherence to the cease-fire when the Syrians violated it, but such calls were repeatedly forthcoming every time we reacted in self-defense. Up until today, the situation is unchanged from what it was before: Land and sea blockades, threatening Syrian air missions, and daily breaches of the cease-fire. Despite this, we accepted a partial cease-fire, which was all the good offices committee could get from Damascus. We openly announced to the Arab League envoys that we were ready to lift the siege fully and facilitate the mission of the Arab observers. Everyone knows who hindered the dispatch of these observers and threatened to send them back in coffins.

Meanwhile, the Arab veil of shyness and reluctance remained in place before the party that is actually hampering all Arab efforts, endeavors, and resolutions. Indeed, this (?silence) has become a false witness to the continuing crime of starving out the majority of the Lebanese people in various parts of the country, under the slogan of making a specific area and certain section of our people kneel. This section of our people can only utter this cry of frustration and disappointment: O brothers, shame on you.

O brothers, the continuing cover-up of the series of events in the criminal conspiracy in Lebanon, the latest and most painful of which was the assassination of His Eminence the late Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of our republic, cannot be justified. Besides, the silence at what is happening in the occupation areas, including the oppressive practices, confiscation of freedoms, and interment of people in prisons and graves, is inexplicable. Describing this silence as Arab impotence is not enough; in the same way, it is not enough to surrender to this impotence and accept the crime of assassinating an entire people and destroying a homeland.

O brothers, we believe that your conference is the last bastion and remaining prop of the Arab League's prestige. It is our natural duty to use all legitimate means to defend our dignity and rescue our people. We address these frank words to you, hoping that your conference will rescue Lebanon, assert the Arab League's right to respect and regard, and promote the entire Arab nation's confidence in the ability of Arab solidarity to prevent monopoly and curb hegemony and overlordship.

Al-Huss Cited on 'Awn's 'Bad Relations'

NC1905112989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has affirmed that dialogue with Michel 'Awn is impossible because he has presented himself as one who does not want a solution. He said that 'Awn does not accept internal dialogue before liberation. He also rejects presidential elections and casts doubt on the legitimacy of the Chamber of Deputies. Al-Huss explained that 'Awn's bad relations with almost everyone dismiss any possibility of reaching a solution with him.

In an interview with the periodical MAGAZINE, Prime Minister al-Huss stressed the need to maintain the partial cease-fire. He expressed fears that 'Awn might aggravate the situation in order to exert pressure on the emergency Arab summit. Al-Huss said in this regard that Morocco will not invite Lebanon to attend this summit conference as it is impossible for it to invite one government and not the other, and it cannot invite the two governments together.

After describing the issue of Lebanon's representation at the summit as a tempest in a teapot, Al-Huss expressed optimism regarding the summit's results. He said: We are at the threshold of an important stage of Arab reconciliation. This can only be in the interest of Lebanon and the interest of its unity, sovereignty, and democratic system.

Parties Restore Contact on Proposed Candidates

JN2105112989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Dubayy, 21 May (WAKH)—Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has revealed that deliberations among external and internal Lebanese parties on proposing a list of names of candidates for the Lebanese presidency have been restored.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-BAYAN in Dubayy today, Al-Huss said that three names of Lebanese presidential candidates have been proposed and that these are Michel al-Khuri, Dr Edmund Na'im, and Ilyas al-Rawi. However, other sources disclosed that there is another attempt to probe the opinions of some Maronite Lebanese parties on the possibility of reproposing the name of Deputy Mikha'il Dahir, who was rejected by the East Beirut leaders as a substitute for President Sulayman Franjiyah, on whose candidacy an agreement was reached between former U.S. envoy Richard Murphy and the Syrian leadership.

Dr al-Huss expected that the Soviet Union and the United States will make good efforts, with the participation of some concerned parties, to resolve the Lebanese crisis as part of an international endeavor.

Al-Huss went on to say that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed in their Moscow meetings to effect such a move within the framework of efforts to support the Arab endeavors seeking to consolidate the cease-fire and consequently to place Lebanon on the course of a political solution.

Iran's Velayati Sends Message to Al-Huss

NC2005205389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss has met with Saudi Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad al-Kuhaymi, the envoy of the Saudi king, to discuss the Lebanese question.

Al-Huss also met with an Iranian delegation led by the Iranian ambassador to Syria, who gave him a message from Iranian Foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Al-Huss Receives Iranian Delegation

NC2005111989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] At 1030 today Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran consisting of Dr Wahib Dastjeridi, chairman of the Iranian Red Crescent Society; Dr Nur Balla, assistant Iranian health minister; and Mohammad 'Ali, director general of the Arab and African States' Affairs Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Following the meeting Dastjeridi said: We have come to Lebanon to study the aid that the Islamic Republic of Iran can give to the Lebanese in these difficult circumstances. As a first step, at least two planes carrying 140 tons of foodstuffs are on standby. Iran is also ready to receive Lebanese casualties from the recent fighting. Therefore, we will coordinate with the quarters concerned, especially His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

Velayati Asks Hizballah, Amal To Maintain Peace

LD1905164889 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Beirut, May 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has called on leaders of Lebanon's Hizballah and Amal movement to step up their efforts to fully implement a peace accord signed by the two.

In a message, Velayati warned the leaders of the various plots against them, citing the martyrdom of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, leader of Lebanese Sunni community, as the latest example. Khalid and at least 21 others were killed in a car bomb attack in West Beirut on Monday.

Velayati's message was handed to leaders of the two Muslim groups last night through the Iranian Embassy.

The message also underlined the need for members of the groups to strengthen their spirit of brotherhood and solidarity.

Meanwhile two people were injured in a clash between Hizballah fighters and Amal militiamen in a southern suburb of Beirut Thursday night.

Both groups signed a peace accord in Damascus last January following weeks of bloody clashes which was finally brought to an end through Iranian and Syrian mediation.

Voice of Oppressed on 'Vengeance' Killing

NC2205105489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 22 May 89

[Political commentary: "Vengeance"]

[Excerpts] To kill a Zionist settler or soldier for every martyr falling during the intifadah [uprising] is the latest decision adopted by the Islamic intifadah in occupied Palestine.

News agencies are disseminating the news, which we receive as a beautiful red rose called vengeance. Yes, it is high time for the blood to flower, for patience to bear fruit, and for the sacrifice of the martyrs to be indemnified by giving life to children, the children of the armed intifadah and its leaders, who are determined to set out on their pilgrimage for the love of God.

Killing a Jewish settler or soldier for every Muslim man or woman who falls in Palestine is a qualitative shift in the course of the pilgrimage. Badr, Fatah, and Khaybar [Muslim conquests during Prophet Muhammad's time] are not just names for local consumption or to lift the morale. The bands of Quraysh [Prophet Muhammad's tribe who antagonized him] have started to flow in to Casablanca to devise a new scheme to do away with the intifadah. The people of Badr must intercept them to strip them of the spoils they gained from their cringing submission to the will of the American arrogance.

Mecca [Saudi Arabia] is still the same. It blocks the road to pilgrimage and applies the statistics and the terms devised by the Great Satan to Islamic rituals. The Great Satan has not ceased to control the people of Mecca and its surrounding areas through councils which cooperate in evil and aggression and spread corruption over the earth.

Therefore, there must be a new conquest of Mecca. Mecca has to be conquered forcibly by the sword. The lackeys and agents of Khaybar [the Jewish state] are everywhere. Its armies, bodies, and institutions are playing their roles and promoting plans and impossible and shameless proposals which aim to do away with the intifadah. These proposals are made by the [Israeli] transport minister, the agriculture minister, or the prime minister. They all come down to one and the same thing; namely, to close the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to block the media's access to it, and to slaughter in cold blood anyone who dares to say no to Israeli occupation, racism, and terrorism.

O children of the intifadah, you drew the conclusion without help. You turned a deaf ear to Kissinger's advice, and you did not wait for 'Arafat's next move. You realized what was going on behind the scenes in Al-'Aqabah, Cairo, Baghdad, and the black house [reference to Casablanca]. You anticipated the summits of [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Tariq 'Aziz, Michel 'Awn, James Baker, Moshe Arens, and Butrus Ghali. You made the right decision in the nick of time, and you prepared your knives and clubs to defend the Al-Aqsa Mosque. [passage omitted]

This is the right decision and the proper response. We will make do with water, salt, and bread, and we will kill a Jewish settler or soldier for every martyr. We will march at them from the Al-Aqsa Mosque, from the alleys of Hebron, from the villages of Gaza, and from the camps of Jabalya, Rafah, and Al-Shati'. We will shield our land with our foreheads, chests, and necks. We will sit in wait for any settler or soldier to give them a taste of their own medicine. [passage omitted]

We will kill a Jewish settler or a criminal Zionist soldier for every Palestinian martyr. It will be vengeance, and we will accept no alternative. We will take revenge for the sake of God. [passage omitted]

Amal Gunmen Clash With Palestinians, Hizballah

NC2005195389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Clashes between Amal Movement personnel and Palestinian gunmen, which first erupted this afternoon, broke out again on the Shatila camp combat lines at approximately 1930 today. Machine guns and rockets were used in the fighting. Meanwhile, according to reports received by Radio Free Lebanon, Amal Movement personnel surrounded a group of four Hizballah members in the al-Hursh area this evening. As news of the incident spread, Hizballah groups attempted to advance toward Hayy Farhat in a bid to rescue the besieged group. Violent clashes involving machine guns and rockets ensued between Amal and Hizballah gunmen, and the Syrian forces intervened. Acute tension now prevails in thea area.

Further on Clash

NC2005165089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] There was a new security development today. Fighting broke out between Amal Movement members and Palestinians along the Shatila combat lines. Artillery, rockets, and medium- and light-caliber machine guns were used in the clashes. After a period of relative calm, the fighting erupted anew at approximately 1840. Today's fighting is the first involving the two parties since 1988.

Palestinians Deny Clash

NC2005204589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The clashes which broke out on the outskirts of Shatila camp, especially in the Hayy Farhat and Al-Sharq movie theater areas and in the area between the airport and al-Ghubayrah traffic circles in West Beirut, have abated. The competent security sources affirm that the fighting was between Amal and the Palestinians and Hizballah. However, a responsible Palestinian source contacted us this evening, saying that the Palestinians had nothing to do with the clashes, which were confined to Hizballah and Amal only.

Syrians Shell Kasrawan, Jubayl Coasts

NC2205073189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Syrian shelling of the eastern coast was resumed today. Approximately 15 shells fell on the Kasrawan and Jubayl coasts between 0920 and 0945 this morning.

'Sources' Cite Al-Asad on Summit, Egypt, Lebanon

JN2005202589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 May 89 p 18

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] High-level Arab sources revealed to AL-QABAS that earlier this week that President Hafiz al-Asad telephoned three Arab leaders and informed them of the following points:

1. Al-Asad told those leaders that he will not personally take part in the meetings and proceedings of the Casablanca summit, and that he will send Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam as the head of a Syrian delegation.

2. Regarding Egypt's return to the Arab League, Al-Asad explained that he personally prefers to discuss this subject in an opening session of the summit to be attended by all Arab leaders with the exception of President Husni Mubarak. In this session, all matters would be clearly raised. Following this, the appropriate resolution on the manner of Egypt's return to the Arab League could be be drafted. However, it seems to Al-Asad that the prevailing Arab mood prefers not to discuss this issue; but prefers to make President Husni Mubarak take part in the summit from the start.

3. During these contacts with the three leaders—and also during his talks with senior Arab officials whom he met recently—Al-Asad said he wished that the Casablanca summit would adopt an Arab resolution on Lebanon acknowledging the Syrian efforts in that country, and which will show that the Arab world is not hostile to Syria and the Syrian role in Lebanon.

The sources told AL-QABAS that two Arab sides are currently working to persuade Al-Asad to reconsider his decision to boycott the Casablanca summit. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Phones Al-Qadhdhafi

JN2005203089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Damascus—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad this evening held a phone conversation with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September Revolution about Arab issues.

Reportage on Visit of Iranian Foreign Minister

Velayati Arrives 20 May

JN2005160089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this afternoon. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the directors of the Asia and Protocol Desks at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Dr Velayati made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he said the aim of the visit is to deliver a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and to meet with a number of Syrian officials. He added that these talks will revolve around bilateral relations, regional issues, and other issues of mutual interest.

Meets President al-Asad

JN2105094289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] In Damascus, President Hafiz al-Asad received Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him at 1100 today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari attended the meeting.

Dr Velayati delivered a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i to President Hafiz al-Asad. The discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Confers With Lebanese Leaders

LD2105121589 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 21, IRNA—Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conferred separately with leaders of the Lebanon's Hizballah and Amal militia leaders here Sunday.

Latest developments in Lebanon, particularly the martyrdom of the Sunni leader Sheikh Hassan Khalid, and the upcoming Arab summit, were among the topics raised.

Velayati referring to the need for unity among all Islamic and progressive groups in Lebanon called on Amal leader Nabih Birri to continue anti-Zionist struggles along with the Hizballah forces.

Meanwhile, members of the Hizballah leadership council gave a detailed report on the situation in Lebanon.

Stressing that the Islamic resistance forces should stay away from any issues which are likely to create discord among Muslims, Velayati urged Hizballah to coordinate it's struggle with Amal.

Velayati arrived here Saturday with a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad.

Conveys Invitation to Al-Asad

JN2105181689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] The Syrian president today received Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i.

An Iranian source said that President Khamene'i has invited President al-Asad to visit Iran. What draws attention is that this invitation comes on the eve of the emergency Arab summit, which will discuss subjects to which Iran attaches great importance, particularly the Gulf cease-fire and the Lebanese situation.

Al-Asad Thanks Iran

LD2105171589 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 21, IRNA—President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria today thanked the Islamic Republic for its efforts to solve problems plaguing the region.

In his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Al-Asad reiterated Syria's resistance against current plots in the region and also voiced support for the struggles of Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Velayati, presented the Syrian head of state a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Khamene'i, condemned the May 15 assassination of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the grand mufti of the Sunni community in Lebanon.

He also re-affirmed Islamic Iran's backing for the struggles of Lebanese Islamic and nationalist forces against the joint Zionist-Maronite plots.

In a separate meeting in the Syrian capital today, the Iranian foreign minister discussed Lebanon's current issue with Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Council, and leading members of Hizballah group and the Amal Movement.

'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Saturday.

Gives Departure Statement

JN2105202889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Damascus today following a 2-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the directors of the Asia and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry; and the Iranian ambassador in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Velayati said: During the visit, I was honored to meet President Hafiz al-Asad. I conveyed to him a message from 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He pointed out that his talks with the Syrian officials, headed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, were good and dealt with bilateral issues and international issues of common interest.

Concludes Visit, Departs 21 May

JN2205061789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Damascus—'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Damascus last night following a 2-day visit to Syria.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Velayati said: During the visit, I was honored to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad. I conveyed to him a message from 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He pointed out that his talks with the Syrian officials, headed by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, were good and dealt with bilateral issues and international issues of common interest.

Concluding his statement, Velayati said: During the visit, I also met with a number of Lebanese and Palestinian brothers. The talks dealt with the need to close ranks to abort the plots concocted by Zionism and its agents.

Palestine Broadcast Supports Killing of Israelis

JN2105172389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 89

[From Palestine Broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by 'Abd al-Rahman Ghunaym]

[Text] In view of the Zionist leaders' determination to escalate the use of tools of oppression and murder against our people, and on the basis of the intifadah's [uprising] right to guarantee its self-defense, the intifadah leadership has called on its strike forces to kill a Zionist soldier or settler for each of our people's martyrs killed by the bullets of the occupation troops and settlers.

We are confident that broad sectors of our Palestinian Arab youths, all over occupied Palestine, will contribute to the implementation of this resolution; and that, from now on, the Zionist enemy must count its soldiers and settlers, who lose their lives due to its leaders' criminal policy against our people. This is the only logical means of defense available to our people after the enemy has gone too far in committing its crimes against our people.

This development in the intifadah's method to confront the occupation's crimes coincides with the new season of the war of fires.

This year, the war of fires must be staged under the slogan of depriving the enemy of the pleasure to enjoy the lands it confiscated from the Arabs, whether in the 1948-occupied part of Palestine or in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This means that this war must extend from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] sea, and from Ra's al-Naqurah to Rafah. All those who can reach a Zionist-controled field or wood must contribute to this war by setting fire to it.

By forcing the enemy to take extraordinary security measures against the war of fires, the intifadah's strike forces can implement the resolution of self-defense by killing soldiers and settlers for the martyrs who fall. This is due to the enemy's subjugation of the intifadah.

When the enemy is forced to scatter its troops, it becomes easier to hunt down its individuals.

Our people's intifadah will continue until occupation is terminated. It will continue until the freedom of our people in their homeland is realized.

Commentary Praises UK, Condemns U.S. Positions

JN1905175289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 May 89

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "Historic Events" feature]

[Text] Struggling brothers, when news agencies publish a news item saying that Washington blocked a British draft resolution being discussed by the Security Council regardless of the contents of this draft law, the first thing which attracts our attention is that such an event constitutes a historic precedent in view of the closeness of U.S. and British policy. This has been true at least since World War II and especially during Margaret Thatcher's ruling era which still continues.

How is it, then, that Washington's and London's views moved away from each other over an issue dealing with international policy to the extent that they disagree in their viewpoints?

The issue is that the British representative in the Security Council is the chairman of the council's current round. The draft resolution he presented revolves around the situation in the occupied Arab territories and reflects the viewpoint of the Security Council members' majority. This is what the British representative said, while expressing his great worry over the sufferings of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories and calling for an international conference on peace in the Middle East as soon as possible.

However, the U.S. representative in the council presented a contrary draft resolution which tries to avoid any condemnation of the Zionist entity. Moreover, the U.S. draft resolution urges the Palestinians to stop their intifadah [uprising] in return for what he calls Israel's adherence to the Geneva charter dealing with protecting civilians during times of war.

It seems as though the U.S. Security Council representative wants Israel to enjoy a calm occupation of the Arab territory. This logic could, in the final analysis, mean not only justifying the crimes of the occupation, but also justifying the crime of continuing the occupation itself.

There is no doubt that such a stance blindly biased toward injustice harms the party which takes it. It strips its policies of any credibility since it is based on moral grounds. [sentence as heard] This is the high price imposed by some in Washington on the United States' international reputation at a time when the world is viewing Israel's crimes committed in the occupied territories with unlimited disgust. In short, it is a position which is about to soil itself with mud for the sake of Israel, without taking into consideration the United States' international weight, reputation, and international attitude toward it.

Such a position would harm the United States more anything else. Our people know that their rights will not be regained through United Nations' justice if they do not retrieve them through their glorious struggle. They will not stop this struggle to fulfill the desire of a superpower, especially if this superpower does not use all its influence to support their just and legitimate demands, but rather uses it to serve those who usurped these rights.

Our people's hope remains great that in the final analysis, a moral stand will be taken which would spare the American people and history the degradation of having been biased in favor of injustice against justice, aggression against peace, and oppression against legitimate national struggle. They also hope that the factors which make Britain and other western European nations condemn Israel's oppressive crimes will undoubtedly impose themselves on the U.S. policy in the end.

Aghanistan

Najibullah Opens 20 May Loya Jirgah Session

LD2005193389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 20 May 89

[Introductory speech by President Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, at 20 May Loya Jirgah session in Kabul—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed members of the Loya Jirgah. In the present sensitive conditions in the 5,000-year history of our proud and beloved country, Afghanistan, once again, as a result of direct aggression and interference by the enemies of the homeland, the issues of national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the national independence of our country are facing danger.

On the basis of the national and historical customs of the people of Afghanistan and in accordance with the instruction of Article 68 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, as the highest manifestation of the will of Afghanistan's people, and in order to discuss the issue of the military-political development of the Republic of Afghanistan, and to find ways for its peaceful solution under conditions of the state of emergency, and to make decisions, entrepreneurs, the intelligentsia, workers, peasants, tradesmen, representatives of our proud armed forces, and women, take part in the work of today's Loya Jirgah: Their number reaches 732 persons in conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan. The credentials for all representatives have been distributed to them by the relavent commission. Also, 384 persons from state leadership authorities, political parties, and social organizations of the country, armed forces, individual political and social personalities, theologians, tribal leaders, businessmen, entrepreneurs, the intelligenstia, and women, a number of commanders who support the national reconciliation policy, representatives of a number of the commanders of the armed groups inside the country are also invited to the work of the Loya Jirgah.

Esteemed representatives, I consider it my duty to welcome you to this Loya Jirgah. I wish success for each of you, and for the Loya Jirgah in fulfilling our national and Islamic duties.

Based on the instruction of Article 68 of the Constitution, we appoint esteemed Hatif as the acting president of the Loya Jirgah. I wish success to esteemed Hatif in proceeding with the work of the Loya Jirgah in a democratic climate.

Issues Warning to Pakistan

BK2005125289 Hong Kong AFP in English
1240 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 20 (AFP)—President Najibullah warned Pakistan Saturday [20 May] that his country would mobilise if it continued its aggression towards Afghanistan, while at the same time offering new peace proposals to the mujahidin.

The announcement came at the opening of the "Loya Jirgah," or Grand National Assembly, in a heavily-guarded building of the Presidential Palace here.

In a 90-minute speech, Mr. Najibullah issued a stern warning to Pakistan, saying that "there exists the danger of the domestic dispute of the Republic of Afghanistan culminating in an Afghanistan-Pakistan war.

"The continuation of the Pakistani aggression, together with the direct intervention of the army of that country in combat operations in the territory of Afghanistan, will face the state (of Afghanistan) with the necessity and compulsion of declaring mobilisation in the country," he said.

He added that the "present Loya Jirgah, by its perception and sense of responsibility, should decide the destiny of the country as regards this probable and inevitable measure."

The Loya Jirgah is the 520-member traditional Afghan assembly that the 1987 Constitution charged with deciding the country's most important questions, but while it elects the president it cannot overrule his decisions.

Although the Loya Jirgah would have to decide on a possible declaration of war, observers noted that Mr. Najibullah had only used the term "mobilisation."

Addressing himself to Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto, he asked if her government was aware "what orders the leaders of the armed groups inside Afghanistan receive from their patrons, that is Pakistan's ISI (secret service)."

"If she is not aware I will tell her," he said before reiterating his government's earlier accusations that Pakistani forces were involved with the mujahidin in the attacks on eastern Jalalabad and other Afghan cities.

Mr. Najibullah also listed the United States and Saudi Arabia among the "instigators and organizers of the undeclared war and aggression against the people of Afghanistan."

He also proposed a new "mechanism of peace" to the mujahidin, with constant references in his speech to Afghanistan's national identity and history.

He announced the setting up of a "mediatory commission" made up of members of the Loya Jirgah which would initiate contact with the mujahidin, Afghans living abroad and former Afghan monarch Zahir Shah, living in exile in Rome.

The commission would be made up of two representatives from each province, or about 60 people, Mr. Najibullah said.

He went on to outline proposals for negotiations, starting with a cease-fire and an international conference including the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Iran and India under the auspices of the United Nations.

The conference would clear the way for a "peace conference inside the country for the formation of a leading council," which, although not explained in any detail, appeared to be a new concept, observers said.

The council, Mr. Najibullah said, "should be entrusted with the task to form the broad-based government and that government will control the cease-fire. It will approve the new constitution and call on the Loya Jirgah to approve it."

"Moreover, it will launch country-wide elections for the Parliament, and after the formation of the Parliament the future Afghan Government will be established in accordance with the new constitution," Mr. Najibullah explained.

As expected he asked the Loya Jirgah to extend the country's three-month old state of emergency, saying it was not contrary to "the policy of national reconciliation."

The venue and date for the meeting of the Loya Jirgah, which will continue Sunday and is open to diplomats and the press, was kept a close secret until the last minute, apparently for security reasons.

Official sources said several opposition field commanders were attending the meeting, but gave no details of which groups they belonged to or their names.

Observers said none of the major mujahidin groups in Pakistan or Afghanistan had responded to Tuesday's call by Kabul for them to attend the meeting.

Report on Speech

LD2105065189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 20, BAKHTAR—The state of emergency does not mean abandoning national reconciliation. But, it guarantees the preservation of this humane policy against the provocations and destructions of the extremists and Pakistan militarists and prevents plots and blackmail against national reconciliation, said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, at the Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) held in Kabul on May 20, 1989.

Therefore, the present Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly), President Najibullah added, has been invited to approve the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan leadership on the continuation of the state of emergency, consolidation and strengthening of our armed forces, mobilization of the people in defence of the homeland, territorial integrity, independence and lives of the defenceless people, attraction of the help and assistance of the international friends of the Afghan people.

History is witness that the Afghan Loya Jirgahs (Grand Assemblies) have consistently identified the most important issues concerning the destiny of the country at the National and international levels and determined the prospects for the development of the country. The Loya Jirgahs held on various occasions in Shahr-e Safa, Sher Sorkh, Ghazni, Jalalabad, Paghman and Kabul demonstrate the obvious fact that the Afghan people attach great great significance and respect to the Jirgahs repeatedly took valuable decisions in regard to the destiny of the homeland, independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, non-alignement and friendship, with neighbours as well as other countries of the world. The Loya Jirgahs, participated in by the representatives of the Afghan nation, tribes, nationalities and ethnic groups, well-respected figures, elders and far-sighted personalities of the country, and discussed issues in regard to national and homeland interests, are part of the historic and traditional glories and prides of the Afghan people. How can anyone calling himself Afghan and follower of the traditions and customs of the Afghan people, disregard the decisions and resolutions of this highest manifestation of the will of the Afghan people.

Regrettably, under the present conditions, the leader of the Seventh Alliance [as received] based in Peshawar are determined to trample on the Islamic traditional and historic glories of ancient Afghanistan and to sell out in anti-homeland and unpopular deals the independence, territorial integrity, and 5000-years long history of the country, and, thus, to line up their pockets with dollars and rupees.

In this Grand Jirgah of the deputies of the Afghan people, we reiterate once again, said President Najibullah, with great honour that we will preserve and develop the Afghan and Islamic traditions, mores and customs of our free and independent country. The freeborn and independent Afghan people will never be ready to accept alien rule, council and government concocted in foreign countries.

President Najibullah reiterated that the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to convene a vast Jirgah, with the participation of the entire deputies of the armed opposition forces, in the land of free and independent Afghanistan, where one can hear the valour and enthusiasm of the historic Jirgahs of our forefathers.

"I, as an Afghan serving you, regard it my national and historic mission to declare that the leaders of the armed opponent extremists, by convening the council under the subjugation of alien forces and behind locked-doors,

intend to denigrate the national and Jirgah glories of Afghanistan and to bring the Pakistan-made government into the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan," added President Najibullah.

On the basis of previous proposals, the state is ready to establish once again truce and ceasefire, provided that the other side too observes it, and to pave the ground for understanding and direct negotiation in order to ensure peace and cessation of fratricidal war on the basis of the following mechanism:

All the forces interested in peace should be called on by a statement to observe the cease-fire, which will be enforced at a definite time. Parallel to the all-round observance of cease-fire, direct dialogue and negotiation should start. An international conference should be convened for the realization of Geneva Agreements defining the permanent [words indistinct] of Afghanistan and a peace conference inside the country for the formation of a leading council.

The leading council should be entrusted with the task to form the broad-based government and that government will control cease-fire. It will approve the new constitution and will call on Loya Jirgah to approve it. Moreover, it will launch country-wide elections for the parliament, and, after the formation of the parliament the future Afghan Government will be established in accordance with new constitution.

President Najibullah proposed that from among the deputies of the present Loya Jirgah, a mediatory commission should be formed to establish contacts and conduct talks with the representatives of the opposition, in Pakistan, Iran, Europe, with the ex-king and its supporters, first and foremost, with the field commanders, elders, and tribal leaders, who so far opposed the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and, meanwhile, demonstrated their will for establishing contacts and negotation with the state in order to put an end to come at operations and normalize the situation in their respective regions. In line with the principles and tenets of the sacred religion of Islam and Jirgah tradition of the Afghan people, we are ready to solve the issues of our country ourselves without foreign interference. We are, moreover, ready to hold an international conference for the settlement of the issues concerning aggression on Afghanistan under the United Nations auspices, with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, the People's Republic of China, Iran and India. These are our proposals and viewpoints for the settlement of the Afghanistan issues.

We are waiting for the proposals and viewpoints of the other side to evaluate them without any delay and to show to the world public the capability of the valorous Afghans and beloved Afghanistan for finding solutions.

The Republic of Afghanistan will launch further efforts in the future in order to seek ways of settlement, understanding and talks with the opposition for the cessation of war and ensurance of peace, and, no alliance, political forces, armed groups, parties, organizations or individual figures will be regarded an exception. In the first place, the state will continue contacts and talks with the field commanders of the armed opposition. Because, the 10-years long experience demonstrated that the field commanders were the only force who bore the brunt of the war. Fortunately, a great number of field commanders, after the withdrawal of Soviet forces, demonstrate a sense of responsibility towards ensuring peace and do not want to harm their compatriots in the conditions that the Soviet forces have left the country.

There are vivid example testifying to the fact that a number of commanders and armed individuals refused to go to Jalalabad war, calling it a foreign aggression against their own country.

I would like to inform the wait-and-see commanders inside the country about the fact that in the present conditions when our country has been subjected to a foreign aggression from Pakistan, your silence in fact allows the aggressors to interfere in the affairs of Afghanistan which damage the national dignity of Afghans. It is the duty of every genuine Afghan to defend his country's interests against the interference and intervention from without, to contribute to repulsion of aggression from Pakistan and to the reconciliation of the warring Afghans.

With the agreement to these commanders, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to deliver gratis aid goods, wheat and other necessary materials to their concerned regions rendering them assistance towards the formation of agricultural and livestock farms and not to limit the land ownership of the commanders who join the policy of national reconciliation. They can choose in their own regions administration executives. The government will define their financial share in the state budget and will take part in realizing socio-economic plans of the localities.

We declare to the armed groups based in the countryside and localities to ensure the security of their regions by the available arms, and to cooperate with the government in transportation of foodstuffs and essential commodities to their own areas.

In the name of this prestigious Jirgah the state of the Republic of Afghanistan calls upon all armed opposition forces to contribute as Afghans who can still display vigilance and astuteness in the settlement of problems relating to the destiny of the nation, to the preservation of a free, non-aligned, independent and integral Afghanistan and not to become tools in the hands of aliens for destruction and humiliation of Afghanistan.

We are for the continuation of peaceful foreign policy of the State of Afghanistan adopted by the November 1987 Loya Jirgah. In its diplomatic and international relations the state is guided by the values of the national reconciliation, the high interests of the Afghan people, principles of peaceful co-existence, equality, free and positive neutrality. President Najibullah once again declared that we advocate permanent neutrality and demilitarization of Afghanistan so as to enable us to use the conditions thus created for healing the wounds of war and ensuring the country's socio-economic development. Our relations with all countries of the world will be maintained only within the framework of the national interests of Afghanistan.

We urge all nations of the world to condemn interference and intervention in our country from any side whatsoever and to help our homeland in its socio-economic development. We do not want to foster enmity towards any country, but are rather expecting other countries, including our neighbours to reciprocate.

President Najibullah emphasized that the neighbours of the Republic of Afghanistan, particularly the peoples of Pakistan, countries united by their common Islamic and cultural links, can play a significant role in ensuring peace in Afghanistan. Regrettably, however, due to militarist and extremist policies at present the intervention and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan are mainly conducted from the Pakistan territory. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan refers to the people of Pakistan calling them to exert pressure on the militarists who continue to hold sway over the policies pursued by that country, and thus stave off further fratricide in Afghanistan and prevent their next-door Afghan neighbours, sharing with them deep friendship, trade and cultural ties, from falling victims to the ambitions of the militarists. We are confident that the people of Pakistan by doing so would be able to curb the threat of further tension in the region. We urge the Parliament of Pakistan to use its possibilities to re-orient the policy now pursued by the Pakistani militarists towards the establishment of peace and tranquility in Afghanistan and implementation of the Geneva Accords by Pakistan. However, the continuation of the Pakistan aggression together with the directly drawing of the army of that country in the combat operations in the territory of Afghanistan will face the state with the necessity and compulsion of declaring mobilisation in the country. The present Loya Jirgah by its perception and sense of responsibility should decide the destiny of the county as regards this probable and inevitable measure.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy historical and traditional ties, and are now jointly trying to ensure peace and repulse the influence of aggressive forces. We hope that the fraternal Iranian people support the just struggle of the Afghan people against the Washington policy of aggression.

Our relations with India are based on ancient history, good-neighbour and mutual friendship. We are grateful to India for her economic aid. India cannot remain indifferent towards the situation created around the Republic of Afghanistan. There are open anti-Indian intentions behind the expansionist provocations and plans of the Pakistani militarists.

We are for the broadening of our relations with Islamic countries, all our neighbours, the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and other nations of the world based on equality. Playing a tangible and significant role in the international arena, NAM can play a more active part in the implementation of the Geneva Accords by the signatories and the resolution of the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly, in calling for a ceasefire and monitoring its compliance in the formation of a broad-based coalition government and in ensuring understanding and dialogue among Afghans.

Touching on the relations of Afghanistan with the Soviet Union, as a great world power in the north of our country, the USSR has maintained good relations with the Republic of Afghanistan for seven decades now. The borders between our countries have been turned today into borders of peace and friendship. By fulfilling their committments under the Geneva Accords, the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR once again proved their friendly and peaceful stands. The Afghan people seriously need Soviet assistance. Particularly today, when our country is again subjected to aggression on the part of extremist forces and Pakistani militarists, we as a neighbour of this great world power have the right to count on the timely and all-round assistance of the Soviet Union.

Geographic destiny has situated Afghanistan next to China, a major power in Asia and the world. Profound historical and cultural links and ties have developed between our peoples. The Republic of Afghanistan has always desired to have normal and friendly relations with the People's Republic of China based on the principles of peaceful co-existence and good-neighbourliness. We are fully confident that the recent developments in the Afghan issue and the positive change in the international situation will provide very useful possibilities for removing any obstacles on the promotion and improvement of relations between the two countries. The people of Afghanistan keenly follow the political, social and economic transformation being executed in their neighbouring country by the people and leadership of the People's Republic of China, and hope that these efforts will result in the interests of Chinese people and expansion of fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

The respected members of the Loya Jirgah and the entire people of Afghanistan clealy see that it is the overseas, the United States from where weapons, explosives, surface-to-surface and surface-to-air rockets are transferred, taking the lives of children, youth and old people of our homeland said President Najibullah. We call on the people of the United States to, drawing on their humanism, exert pressure on their government to stop the

delivery of lethal weapons to Afghanistan. It does not need molten pieces of shells, smoke and gun powder. The people of Afghanistan instead need foodstuffs and clothes.

President Najibullah appreciated the endeavours of the UN secretary general in tirelessly leading and conducting [words indistinct] the Geneva talks. Despite her signing of the Geneva Accords in the presence of the UN secretary general, with the co-guarantee of the USSR and the United States that has enhanced the executive and legal status of the accords, Pakistan does not comply with them. This and other violations and negligence on the part of Pakistan of such an authentic international document damage its authority and international credibility.

Today, when all pretexts for financing war in Afghanistan have been removed, the international community can and must play an effective role in ensuring peace and reviving the already ruined economy of the country.

Being in the highest post of the country's leadership at the present difficult conditions, President Najibullah once again renewed before the valiant Afghan nation his pledge to use all his power, energy, talent and abilities in saving the people of Afghanistan.

Loya Jirgah Resolution

LD2105224789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 21 May 89

[Resolution issued by the Loya Jirgah in Kabul on 21 May; recorded—read by Fazl Haq Khaligyar, governor of Herat Province]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Resolution of the historic Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368 [May 1989] concerning the development of the military-political situation of the Republic of Afghanistan, the questions around it, and the independent defense under the emergency conditions:

The Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368 of the Republic of Afghanistan, in line with the articles of the Constitution, was convened in Kabul to discuss the development of the political-military situation in the country and the situation around Afghanistan and their peaceful political solution under the emergency condition. In this historic Loya Jirgah, esteemed President Najibullah comprehensively assessed major matters concerning the development of the situation inside the country and on the international level. He specifically analyzed and drew conclusions on the gains, peculiarities, and development of the situation as a whole and under the conditions of the state of emergency, which was announced by the Republic of Afghanistan on 1 Hout 1368 [19 February 1989].

Most of the speakers in the Loya Jirgah completely affirmed the assessments made by esteemed Najibullah and pointed out that Afghanistan is now going through a difficult and sensitive phase of its history, characterized by the inclinations of the majority of military forces—and primarily all the armed oppositon commanders inside the country—to move away from war and toward peace, to search for peaceful ways to solve problems.

The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan, in consideration of the reality of the prevailing situation in the country, points out that the Republic of Afghanistan declared the national reconciliation policy and along with that organized an independent successful defense of the homeland. Precisely observing the Geneva Accords, the USSR completed the withdrawal of its units from Afghanistan. It has made comprehensive efforts on the national and international levels for the political solution of the Afghan question and for maintenance of peace in the country.

Unfortunately, the tense military situation and bloodshed still continue in the country, because Pakistan, contrary to the Geneva Accords and other documents and international norms, has not only continued open interference and aggression against the independence and national sovereignty of Afghanistan, but has intensified and expanded it.

Despite the changes in the international atmosphere, the United States has not reviewed its position on the matter of maintaining peace in Afghanistan. A number of leaders of extremist groups in Peshawar, contrary to the historical, national, and Islamic interests of the Afghan people, are being encouraged and incited to intensify bloodshed in the country for the purpose of ending the country's independence.

The historic Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368, in the name of the Almighty God and the faithful Afghan people; in recognition of its historical, Islamic, national, and patriotic responsibilities before the people and the homeland; in order to find peaceful political ways to resolve the Afghan question in accordance with the paramount interests of the Afghan people, which are to defend the territorial integrity, independence, and the sovereignty of the people and the homeland, decides:

1. All representatives of the Afghan people in the historic Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368, after attentively and comprehensively hearing the fundamental statement by Esteemed Najibullah, confirm the statement and state that it is a clear reflection of the will and national interests of the Afghan people to protect and defend the country's independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty and to achieve socioeconomic renewal.

2. The historic Loya Jirgah of May 1989 states that the process of life in the course of the time elapsed since the convocation of the Loya Jirgah of peace of November-December 1987-88 decisively articulates the correctness and objectivity of the policy of national reconciliation. The Loya Jirgah points out that the people of Afghanistan, despite threats, interference and aggression from abroad, have achieved important historical successes in

light of the policy of national reconciliation in the national and international level. Experience showed that the policy of national reconciliation is the only correct way for the cessation of war and the establishment of peace in the country. The Loya Jirgah, on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, supports the activity of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan toward the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation and the political solution of the questions of Afghanistan, and advises the state on the consistent pursuance of this policy.

3. The historic Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368 [May 1989] of the people of Afghanistan, having comprehensively assessed the situation in the country and in the region; having taken into account the undeniable fact of interference and aggression by Pakistan and the ill intentions of certain military circles in Pakistan with regard to the territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and independence of Afghanistan; having taken into account our complete readiness to foil all types of aggression against our united country and to continue the Republic of Afghanistan's activities aimed at achieving peace in the country; approves the measures taken by the Republic of Afghanistan over the last 3 months following the declaration of the state of emergency and has decided that the state of emergency will be extended for a further 6 months. If the situation has still not become normal by the end of that period, the president of Afghanistan is authorized to extend it for another 6 months on his own authority.

4. The supreme council of the defense of the homeland, as the highest political-military organ in the conditions of emergency, is authorized, for the purpose of coordinated political-military leadership, the realization of the policy of national reconciliation, the decisive and reliable defense of the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the maintenance of peace and security, and the consolidation of the consistent defense capability of the country, under the conditions of the state of emergency to accomplish their duties in accordance with the existing laws.

5. The Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan, in order to establish contacts with the representatives of the opposition inside and outside the country and facilitating the grounds of dialogue and negotiations for the cessation of war and the maintenance of peace in the country—resovles in connection with a mediation commission:

a. The list which, in accordance with the decisions of the meetings of the delegates and senators of the Milli Shura and the elected representatives of the people of every province and the equavalent, has been prepared, is affirmed. The list is supplemented.

b. Other individuals, in line with the proposals of the executive board of the national front of the Republic of Afghanistan, are appointed by the president of Afghanistan.

c. The work method and activity of this mediation commission is to be prepared by the secretariat of the supreme council of national reconciliation and to be enforced after its ratification by the president of Afghanistan by a decree.

6. The Loya Jirgah highly assesses the heroic activities of the Afghan Armed Forces and all national and progressive peaceful forces in the country in defending the homeland's independence and national sovereignty, in repelling aggression, and in establishing peace in the country. It assesses the heroic defense of Nangarhar, Khowst, Qandahar, Laghman, and other areas as a great historic and national epoch of the Afghan people and a new manifestation of the courage and solidarity of all ethnic groups and regions of the country in defense of the honor, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of the country. The Loya Jirgah expresses its greatest appreciation to the Afghan Armed Forces and all troops and officers.

7. The Loya Jirgah of Afghanistan, affirming the measures based on the sacred religon of Islam, the Shari'ah of the Prophet Muhammad, and the fatwas [religious decrees] of the 'ulemah, religious leaders, preachers, and mullahs, invites all armed opposition groups to end the war and bloodshed and to maintain peace and support such measures by the state.

8. The historic Loya Jirgah of Sawr 1368 of the Afghan people states that a number of leaders of the extremist groups residing in Peshawar are insisting on a military solution to the Afghan question and a rejection of all the Afghan Government's peace proposals. The Pakistani Government for Afghanistan [refers to mujahidin government] has an openly antinational position that rejects the history of the Afghan people. Specifically, it supports the annexation of Afghanistan by Pakistan under the guise of a confederation. This position, which is opposed to the independence of the country and the establishment of peace, is an unforgivable antinational and unpatriotic stand. The Loya Jirgah considers all these actions to be against the country's interests and condemns them. It invites all Afghans to end such policies which prevents the peaceful solution of the questions.

9. The Loya Jirgah supports all activities of the Republic of Afghanistan to attain the voluntary and safe return of all compatriots in exile, condemns the creation of obstacles by the Pakistani militarists and the extremist groups residing in Pakistan to their return, and points out that Afghanistan is the common home and fatherland of all Afghans. All possibilities and facilities have been prepared for the worthy welcome of Afghans far from the homeland. The Loya Jirgah invites all compatriots abroad to return to the country with trust and confidence.

10. The Loya Jirgah supports the proposals advanced by the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the permanent neutralization and demilitarization of Afghanistan, provided political rights, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity are guaranteed.

11. The Loya Jirgah supports the proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan to convene an international conference with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, the PRC, Iran, and India under UN auspices regarding the implementation of the Geneva Accords.

12. The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan, following a comprehensive and objective assessment of the military-political situation in Afghanistan—in particular the dangerous situation created as a result of the intensification of interference and aggression by Pakistan—calls on all the people of Afghanistan, all the ethnic groups, fraternal tribes, and clans in the country, to unite for the purpose of opposing foreign aggression, defending the independence of the country, and establishing peace in the country. The people of our country have shown that throughout history their unity and solidarity have broken every act of aggression.

The Loya Jirgah states that the fundamental issues for the future and the destiny of the homeland depend on consolidating the national unity of the Afghan people and giving priority to the paramount interests of the country and the national and patriotic interests of the Afghan people by all the forces.

13. The historical Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan, after assessing the realities of the intensification of aggression by Pakistan, authorizes the state of the Republic of Afghanistan to take every defensive measure and necessary reaction against aggression and reserves the right to request and receive every sort of assistance from the international friends of Afghanistan.

14. The Loya Jirgah of the Republic of Afghanistan categorically points out that the historic and traditional fraternity and solidarity of the people of Afghanistan with the Pashtuns and Baluchs is an undeniable fact, and their solidarity with our people in ending interference and Pakistan's aggression against Afghanistan in maintaining peace and ending war in Afghanistan and restoring normal and friendly neighborly relations between the people of Afghanistan and Pakistan, is of historic importance. The Loya Jirgah hopes that they too will play their historic role in maintaining peace and establishing stability, which is in the interest of the peoples of the region.

15. The historic Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan expresses profound gratitude to all sources and international organizations, friendly countries, and the social circles of the world who are making active efforts toward ending foreign aggression and war in Afghanistan, establishing peace, and aiding the revival of Afghanistan. The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan requests that the role and effectiveness of the United Nations, in particular the [word indistinct] of that organization and the Nonaligned Movement be increased toward putting an end to Pakistani aggression and establishing peace in Afghanistan. The Loya Jirgah greatly appreciates the role of the two neighboring countries, the Soviet Union and India in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan for the realization of peace in our country. The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan affirms the efforts of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan toward maintaining solid friendly relations with the PRC and the Islamic Republic of Iran and supports with interest the future growth of these relations toward their restoration, strengthening, and further expansion.

16. The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan focuses on the traditional relations of Afghanistan and its Muslim people with the Islamic countries and the Islamic world and states that the broad support of wide circles of the Islamic countries for the policy of national reconciliation and the establishment of peace in Afghanistan, is indicative of the fact that the Muslims of the world, realizing the truth about Afghanistan, condem warmongering activities. The Loya Jirgah of the people of Afghanistan emphatically points out that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, as the only legal government of Afghanistan, should retake its worthy place in the Islamic Conference Organization.

17. The historic Loya Jirgah of Afghanistan, once again, declares its unshakeable loyalty to the principles of the defense of peace and the stability of the region and the world, pursuit of the principle of peaceful coexistence, solidarity with all liberation movements, the pursuit of the policy of nonalignment, the growth and expansion of friendly relations with the friendly neighboring countries, solidarity with all peoples of the world, in particular the Muslim people in the way of peace and the Palestinian liberation movement, the elimination of international tension, disarmament, prohibition of the use of chemical weapons, elimination of nuclear weapons, and struggle against warmongering forces and neocolonialism, racism, Zionism, and apartheid, and for the maintenance of freedom and independence, progress and development of the countries and peoples of the world.

Success comes from God. [applause]

Mujahidin Say Soviet Forces Still Present

BK2105100089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0949 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Islamabad, May 21 (AFP)—The Afghan mujahidin interim government charged Sunday that the Soviet Union was keeping troops, pilots, advisers and experts in Afghanistan to prop up the government in Kabul.

A communique from the mujahidin government, grouping seven Afghan resistance parties based in the northwestern Pakistan city of Peshawar, said Soviet forces were taking part in fighting in Afghanistan as part of the Jozjani militia unit.

The Jozjani militia is made up of Soviet troops who speak Uzbek or Parsi and come from Soviet republics that border Iran and Afghanistan.

The "Jozjanis," who wear their own special uniform, are most active in Afghanistan's southeastern region of Qandahar, according to mujahidin sources in Quetta City, western Pakistan.

The mujahidin also said Soviet pilots were still operating in Afghanistan, that military advisers were in Kabul and that 40 experts in the launching of Soviet Scud missiles were helping the Afghan army.

Kabul regularly denounces the presence of Pakistani troops, Arab advisers, and "Saudis" alongside "extremists" opposed to the Kabul government.

Soviet forces completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on February 15 under a United Nations-brokered peace accord after a nine-year intervention.

Spokesman on Recent Fighting With 'Extremists'

LD1905191289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] An authoritative spokesman for the armed forces has reported to the BAKHTAR military section that extremist armed forces, with the backing of Pakistani militia and Saudi armed mercenaries, fired yesterday on the city of Jalalabad and its environs and airport while supported by firepower of the Pakistani 11th and 18th artillery divisions. As a result, residents and one member of the armed forces were martyred, seven others were wounded, and two houses were destroyed. Armed forces units based at Nangarhar, which are courageously defending the independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty of the country, defeated the enemy operations with crushing blows and inflicted heavy losses on them. As a result of artillery and air raids by the armed forces, 153 of the enemy forces were crushed and 68 others wounded. A large number of Saudi and Pakistani militia are among the killed and wounded. Two mortars, 3 rocket units, 3 arms and ammunition depots, 7 motor vehicles with arms and ammunition, 270 infantry weapons, and 7 mules loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed.

The source adds that extremists associated with Pakistan yesterday attacked some parts of Khowst District. Armed forces units in the area heroically cut short the enemy attacks. They were pushed back. As a result of this enemy action, two residents were martyred and five others were wounded. As a result of our armed forces artillery and air raids, 30 armed extremists were killed and and 18 others wounded. Two ringleaders and six Saudis are among those killed.

The armed forces spokesman says that as a result of the enemy fire two people have been wounded in the province of Qandahar. Similarly, extremists' heavy weapons fire resulted in the martyrdom of three people and the wounding of one person in the area of Spin Buldak.

As a result of the armed forces fire, eight extremists were crushed and three others were wounded in Herat Province. Similarly, four extremists have been captured by the armed forces with three light arms and a machinegun and two motorcycles.

According to another report, as a result of clearance and search operations carried out in Konduz Province, 15 infantry weapons, 6,000 rounds of bullets, 20 hand grenades, and 119 kg of opium have been captured by the security forces. As many as seven enemies were crushed in the operation and three vehicles of the extremists loaded with arms and ammunition have been destroyed.

Armed forces based in Laghman Province crushed a group of Pakistan-backed extremists during their shattering blows. As many as two extremists, including one of their ringleaders, were crushed, two others were wounded, and one was captured during the operation. Similarly two arms, 15 ground-to-ground rockets and 15 hand grenades were captured by the armed forces.

The armed forces spokesman says that situation in the rest of the country has generally been calm.

'Extremists' Attacks on Nangarhar Reported

LD2205071589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 21 [date as received], BAKHTAR—An authorised military source said here that during the past 24 hours [word indistinct] armed extremists attacked several corners of Nangarhar Province. The garrison of that province and Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan resorted to counter attacks. One [word indistince] and sixty enemies, including Pakistani militia and Saudi Wahhabis, were killed and 116 others wounded.

As a result of the attacks of the extremists on the outskirts of Jalalabad, security posts and airport of that city 4 civilians and 2 members of the armed forces were killed, 6 others wounded and 9 houses demolished. Large quantities of arms and ammunition of the enemy destroyed.

A civilian was killed by the extremists heavy attacks in Qandahar. The Khowst Grand District came under the heavy attacks of the enemies. No one was killed or wounded.

Mujahidin Down Plane Piloted by Indian 18 May

BK2105023089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, the mujahidin shot down an aircraft last Thursday [18 May] which was being flown to (Topan Lal), and an Indian pilot. AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS, quoting the mujahidin

groups, said the aircraft was shot down by a surface-to-air missile when it was taking off from the Qandahar airport. The pilot and two crew members were killed.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin, during an attack on a military post on Kabul-Gazni Road, killed eight Kabul regime troops and destroyed one tank. The mujahidin used missiles and rockets during the attack, during which they also destroyed a building on the post.

Mujahidin Down MiG-21

BK2205022689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS has reported that the mujahidin shot down a MiG-21 aircraft immediately after it took off from Qandahar airport. Other sources quoting mujahidin commanders report that the mujahidin shelled Qandahar airport from Sunday to Wednesday [14-17 May], inflicting losses of life and material on Kabul regime troops.

Kabul Radio has confirmed fighting on the outskirts of Jalalabad and in Paktia province. As a result of the rocket attack by the mujahidin on Jalalabad last Friday [19 May], military installations were set on fire. The national security minister of the Afghan interim government, Haji Din Muhammad, said that in retaliation for the mujahidin shelling, Kabul regime aircraft heavily bombed villages around the city, causing considerable damage.

Various Clashes Reported

BK2205102389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have captured (Alkhush) post in Shakar Darreh and killed 3 officers and 49 soldiers of the Kabul regime. They also launched a surprise attack on the Kabul forces in Baghlan Province, killing 5 soldiers and wounding 22.

Reports have also come in about clashes between the mujahidin and the Kabul regime troops in Nangarhar Province, in which 18 Kabul soldiers were killed and 51 wounded.

Radio Kabul has reported fierce fighting in Jalalabad also. Meanwhile, the mujahidin are launching major attacks on the border garrison of Khowst in Paktia Province.

India

Long-Range 'Agni' Missile 'Successfully' Launched

BK2205033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0335 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The technology-proven maiden long-range missile "Agni" was launched successfully from Chandipur in Balasar District of Orissa by scientists and engineers of the Defense Research and Development Organization at 0717 this morning [0247 GMT]. The defense minister, Mr Pant, and others were present on the occasion.

More on Launching

BK2205065189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The country's first intermediate range surface-to-surface missile Agni was successfully launched from the interim test range at Chandipur on the seacoast of Orissa at 17 minutes past 7 this morning [0247 GMT]. Among those who witnessed the launching were the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant; the minister of state for defense, Mr Chintamani Panigrahi; the scientific adviser to the defense minister, Dr V.S. Arunachalam; and a large number of scientists and officers of the Defense Research and Development Organization.

Agni is a two-stage missile. The entire design, development, fabrication, and testing of subsystems and components is indigenous. The lead laboratory in the program was the Defense Research and Development Laboratory at Hyderabad. The maiden test launch is in the basic nature of proven advanced missile technology developed under the integrated guided missile development program.

Our correspondent says that the successful maiden flight of Agni renews the country's confidence in the capabilities of our scientific and technical community and in the maturity of indigenous technology. The technology-proven test flight of Agni today has met all range safety requirements, setting at rest the fears expressed in some quarters about safety precautions associated with such operations. The central and state government had made special arrangements by temporarily moving some sections of the local population for a few hours as part of range safety requirements.

The president, Mr R. Venkataraman, has congratulated the scientists, engineers, and all those associated with the successful launching of the missile Agni. In a message from Simla, the president said that the launch is a tribute to their dedication, hard work, and talent. He said it is a milestone in the country's scientific endeavor through self-reliance.

Gandhi Hails Missile Test

BK2205103889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] The country's first long-range surface-to-surface missile, Agni, was successfully launched from the interim test range at Chandipur on the seacoast of Orissa at 17 minutes past 7 this morning [0247 GMT]. [passage omitted]

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said that this is a major achievement in our continuing effort to safeguard the country's independence and security by self-reliant means.

The prime minister described the launching of Agni as a national endeavor in the pursuit of self-reliance. He said that it is not a nuclear weapon system. What Agni does is to afford us the option of developing the ability to deliver non-nuclear weapons with high precision at long ranges. It provides us with a viable non-nuclear option of the greatest relevance to the contemporary strategic doctrine.

The prime minister said India has no aggressive designs on anyone. We are passionately committed to peaceful coexistence and nuclear disarmament. The action plan presented by India for a nuclear free and nonviolent world order derived its inspiration from India's abiding commitment to the ideals and vision of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Indira Gandhi.

Kashmir Minister Issues Warning to Pakistan

BK2005160289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, has warned Pakistan to desist from disturbing peace in the state. He said that Pakistan continues to encourage subversive activities in Kashmir which could result in unpleasant consequences. He was addressing a largely attended public meeting in the border town of Drugmullah in Kupwara District in north Kashmir today.

Warning the communal and fundamentalist forces, the chief minister said that our democratic set-up provides no scope for such narrow-minded forces to operate.

Exiled Tibetan Parliament Backs Chinese Students

BK2205110589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 22 (AFP)—The Tibetan parliament-in-exile Monday accused Beijing of intolerance in dealing with the demands of Chinese students and also claimed 800 Tibetans had been executed by Chinese security forces since March.

The Assembly of Tibetan People's Deputies made the claim in a brief statement issued in the northern Indian town of Dharamsala and called on Chinese leaders to resolve all problems with understanding and dialogue.

The statement said the massive protests by students and youths in Beijing, which began last month after the death of former Chinese Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang, "have revealed the real feelings of the Chinese people."

"When such a magnitude of their own people are unhappy, how can the Tibetan people living under Chinese domination be happy?" it asked.

It said the decision to impose martial law in Beijing "to curb the peaceful activities of the Chinese students calling for freedom and democratic rights shows the intolerance of the Chinese and the lack of basic freedom in China."

But the statement, made available by the Dalai Lama's office here, said Chinese authorities had adopted different standards in face of recent protests in Beijing and Lhasa.

"We note the defensive Chinese attitude towards the demonstrations being staged by the Chinese students," it said.

"While no force is being used to curb the Chinese demonstrators, except for the imposition of martial law in Beijing, the Chinese authorities in Tibet have opened fire on peaceful demonstrators and conducted house-to-house raids at night."

"Over 800 Tibetans have been executed since March 1989 demonstrations in Tibet and many more have been arrested under flimsy charges," it added.

Martial law was imposed in Tibet on March 8 after three days of pro-independence riots in which 16 people died according to official accounts.

The assembly asked Chinese leaders to "respect the aspirations of their own people as well as those of the Tibetans under Chinese colonial rule", and asked that all problems "be solved through understanding and dialogue and not by arrogance or use of brutal force." [passage omitted]

Punjab 'Terrorists' Kill 6 in Separate Incidents

BK2005033689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead six persons, including five members of a family, in separate incidents, while the security forces shot dead one terrorist and arrested two last night.

According to an official spokesman, terrorists struck at a house of a CPI [Communist Party of India] activist in village Chakania in Dharamkot area of Ferozepore District early this morning, killing him and four members of his family. In Patiala, terrorists shot dead Dr Ravinder Singh Ravi of Punjabi University in his house last night.

Further on Violence

BK2105164289 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpt] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist, Mohinder Singh, alias Koki, died after consuming cyanide when he was overpowered by security forces after an encounter in Sheikhpura village in Ludhiana District. A gun and some

cartridges were recovered from him. Koki was responsible for the recent murder of Mr Gurmel Singh of the Communist Party of India and his [word indistinct] in Ludhiana District.

Elsewhere in the state, 6 more terrorists were killed and 20 others were arrested with arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

Iran

Khamene'i Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD1905164189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1247 GMT 19 may 89

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by President 'Ali Khamene'i on 19 May at Tehran University—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage omitted] Today I wish to talk about a number of issues. One concerns the glorious and pride-inspiring day of 24 May, the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, which should fittingly be regarded as a joyous day for the Iranian nation. On that day the entire nation was joyful and prayed for our fighters and for our imam. It was also a day when the courage and self-sacrifice of the fighters of Islam were manifested. For these reasons we should honor that day. [passage omitted]

The second issue I wish to discuss briefly concerns our trip to China and Korea. I wish to make a few points about this trip which, I know, will be of interest to our nation. Then, I want to present a short report and some explanations about the work of the Council to Reappraise the Consitution, which is also an important matter and is of interest to the people. The people wish to hear something about that matter, too.

Regarding the trip, I want to say that the two countries we visited have experienced revolutions different from our revolution, revolutions that took place many years before our revolution. Both of them are revolutionary countries. The main purpose of our trip was to establish relations, contacts, and economic, technical, and scientific exchanges with those countries possessing these capabilities. Our main aim however was to engage in joint political action, to establish technical and economic cooperation, because these types of cooperation are needed by our nation and our country. Moreover, as those countries also benefit from this cooperation, they also value cooperating with our country and attach importance to it. Therefore, they also welcome cooperation. These are the main aims, along with cultural cooperation, meeting the people of those countries, and getting acquainted with them. However, these trips have many other benefits, some of which directly effect our work and whose importance is no less than the main goals and aims. One of these benefits is to become acquainted with the revolutionary experiences of those nations. This is an important issue. [passage omitted]

North Korea staged its revolution in 1953, nearly 35 or 36 years ago, after a long war against the Japanese who had occupied Korea. Later, they were engaged in a bloody, 3-year war against the Americans who occupied Korea, destroyed people's homes, and bombed cities. The people initiated a decisive battle under the present Korean leadership, and for the past 35 or 36 years they have had a revolutionary government and experience.

Therefore, our revolution, which is only 10 years old, is younger than both those revolutions. There were many new aspects in our revolution that did not exist in other revolutions; and the Koreans and Chinese also have some experiences which can be useful to us. [passage omitted] Our revolution has many fundamental differences with most revolutions. They were amazed when we spoke with them and explained what happened in our country and how our people achieved their victory. In other words, the form of our revolution is very different from other revolutionary countries, and the greatness and brilliance of our country's revolution is greater than theirs. Some of them also knew this. The Korean president told me that the victory of our revolution was an extremely important event. In the past they had no contact with Iran. However, the revolution and the victory of the revolution have made those who are revolutionary people, who are sensitive, who are anti-American, to watch and see what events take place in the world which corresponds to their ideas. They immediately made note of our revolution, and for the past 10 years they have had truly good and sincere cooperation with us.

In any case, the importance and significance of our revolution is different from other revolutions. Some of them might have had a longer struggle; but look at the nature of our revolution and the fact that the people with their own bodies—not with their weapons—and with their faith which moved them, rose against a completely armed regime. They were not afraid of pressure, of threats, of the slaughter which was constantly taking place. They paid no heed to international support for that regime, they did not think that they were powerless, that they would not be successful, that they could not meet daggers with their fists, that their struggles would be pointless. With their lives, with their bodies, with their children, and with their loved ones they poured out onto the streets. The entire nation, not in one or two cities but in all parts of the country, resisted in this innocent way until they brought the tyrant to his knees and forced him to flee. Then they formed their own government. This is unprecedented in the world. [shouts of approval] [passage omitted]

In comparison with other revolutions, our revolution has certain characteristics which the other revolutions lack. On the other hand, those revolutions have left behind experiences from which we can benefit. China established a socialist government about 40 years ago—4 decades totally different in nature. Their first decade was a in which theyb received aid from their big brother, the Soviet Union. This, as I informed the Chinese leaders, was something that was not a characteristic of our revolution. We have gone through 10 years of our revolution without receiving any form of assistance whatsoever. [passage omitted]

Another characteristic of their revolution that people expect to witness in any revolution—such as the misinterpretations of our system—was the power struggle among the leaders. It was not a struggle over ideology or beliefe, but purely a struggle for taking charge. [passage omitted]

They have not achieved much in the way of appearances, but they have managed to build a sound infrastructure. We feet that in China we can find a good commercial, technical, and scientific partner, and they fully agreed with us. [passage omitted]

Regarding North Korea I would like to give you a brief explanation of my visit, as I cannot give an indepth discussion during the Friday prayers sermons. In North Korea the situation is somewhat different. That nation embarked on the reconstruction of their country following their defeat of the United States in 1953. [passage omitted] North Korea today is a developed nation. It is developed with respect to its infrastructure. It is progressive with respect to research. This should serve as a good example to all the other revolutionary nations. However, it has taken them 36 years to reach this point in their history, while in our case I think that we will reach it much sooner. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

Of course, our country is larger, we have greater underground resources, we have oil. We have many possibilities here which many other countries lack, including North Korea. Therefore, our future is much brighter. We, too, can solve all the material problems of the society, just as they did. In addition to that, we can solve our spiritual and moral problems which is a particular capability of Islam. In my view, it is a valuable experiment which we can perform. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, there is a final point which I want to raise briefly as the weather is somewhat warm, and the brothers and sisters are sitting in the sun. This is the issue related to the Council To Reappraise the Constitution. It is a very important move of which I spoke in general terms. Today I will report on the progress of the work. Some commissions were set up which have begun their work. Now the deliberations of the commissions are coming up at a general meeting, which began to be shown on television last night. I recommend that my brothers and sisters, I invite those who are interested in these issues, to view them even though they are lengthy. Each session lasts 3 hours. [passage omitted]

The point of the centralization of the judiciary has been resolved to a great extent; that is, everybody has agreed that many problems of the judiciary stem from the fact that the management of the judiciary is on a consultative basis. For example, this major branch is headed by a five-man council—five theologians [mojtahed], just, good men who are qualified. And yet, in the final analysis it means five wills, five votes, five views. Two individuals cannot cut a piece of cloth with a single pair of scissors. Both handles of a pair of scissors must be in the fingers of a single person if he is to cut the piece of cloth. One finger from one person and another from another person may cut it or may not. In most cases it does not cut. It is worse if there are five fingers. [passage omitted] That is what has so far been submitted to the council's general meeting—that the judiciary be entrusted to a single person who is a theologian, a man who is just, wise, informed of judicial affairs and decisive, who would be able to perform his duties. [crowd chants]

So much for the judiciary issue , which we hope will be resolved and the articles of the Constitution in this chapter be amended thus.

This alos applies to the executive branch. On that point, too, I must say that almost everybody has accepted the fact that duality of management in the executive will lead nowhere. It has dual management now: We have a president who is vested with some powers and also we have a prime minister who is vested with some powers. The scope of both their powers is the executive, which is the context of the life of the people.

No matter how much they think alike, no matter how close they are to each other, how kind they are, or how much they believe in each other, nevertheless they have two wills. [passage omitted] Two individuals cannot be alike. There must be one with sufficient powers, with the necessary authority, and of course, under required supervision.

We do not intend to entrust all powers in the country to a single person so that one is not be able to criticize him. However, centralization is necesary. A single person must be in charge. People must make demands of him, protest to him, hold him responsible. Today the people do not know who to hold responsible. Whoever the people refer to, he says that he is not in charge of the given affair, or that he lacks the legal authority, or that he cannot do what they ask. Well, people's affairs must be clear. This situation points a great discrepency in the Constitution.

Here also two views exist. One view holds that we must give the power to the president because he is elected by popular vote. This view relies on the popular vote, popular emotions, and demands. Well, people gather and by voting elect a person to head the executive power. He then selects his ministers, presents them to the Majlis, and receives a vote of confidence. If his ministers make mistakes and carry out wrong deeds, then the Majlis votes a non- confidence censure and brings down the government. But the president is backed by the votes of the people; that is, in a popular regime the people have a direct role in the administration of the country. [passage omitted] If necessary, the people can bring him down.

This is one view. Another view holds that we must not entrust power to the president; he must be a ceremonial figure. The Majlis should elect a prime minister who would be the head of state [rais-e keshvar]. Thus, in this second form we have a president, but he is merely a figurehead, a person for ceremonies. He has no power, he does not have anything to do. The prime minister will be elected by the Majlis. In some places in the world such a system exists. Of course, this second system exists where parties rule, for instance, in countries like France and England. In England—France has a different system—and some other countries where a prime ministerial regime exists, the system is like this. Two or three parties engage in electioneering. [passage omitted]

In the first system we have the advantage that the people directly elect the head of the state, while in the second system the head of the state is not elected by the people; he is elected by the Majlis representatives who themselves are of course elected by the people.

These two views are now being debated. We must see how God has willed it for us; we must wait to see which one is correct. The honorable members of the Council to Reappraise the Constitution must opt for one of the alternatives. God willing, one of these two alternatives will be selected. Or it may well be that a third alternative is discovered, superior to the other two options, or more complete than both of them, with some characteristics borrowed from both systems. Now I cannot foresee what will happen. [passage omitted] People must compare the views carefully so that when they vote in the referendum they will do so with insight and knowledge. [passage omitted]

Velayati, Delegation Leave for Syria

LD2005123789 Tehran IRNA in English 1232 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a delegation departed for Damascus Saturday for talks with Syrian officials on the latest regional developments, notably in Lebanon.

Velayati is also carrying a message from President 'Ali Khamene'i for his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad.

Returns From 'Constructive' Visit

LD2205070689 Tehran IRNA in English 0650 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati described his visit to Syria as positive and constructive.

Speaking upon his arrival here Sunday night, Velayati said the visit was necessary at the threshold of President Hafiz al-Asad's trip to Morocco to take part in the Arab League summit meet.

Velayati who arrived in Damascus Saturday night submitted President Khamene'i's message to his Syrian counterpart. He also discussed Tehran-Damascus ties and latest regional and international developments with him.

Velayati reminded that the two brotherly countries should consult at various occasions to harmonise their stands especially at the present crucial time.

Velayati also held separate and joint meetings with officials of Amal and Hizballah of Lebanon during his stay in Damascus.

Before departing Damascus Velayati also met with combatant Lebanese 'ulema and Muslim militia and stressed the strengthening of Muslims' ranks against the Zionist regime.

He also met with the secretary general of the National Front for Salvation of Palestine Ahmad Jibril before leaving Damascus for Tehran. During the meeting Velayati stressed that Iran would help the Palestinian revolution in the framework of her principal stands.

The Palestinian official ruled out resolutions and discussions as a means to solve problems of Palestinian nation and believed the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation would be achieved only through non-stop campaign.

He added that despite efforts to subdue the Palestinian uprising and despite the brutal suppression of the Zionist regime, the Palestinian nation will continue their intifadah [uprising].

USSR's Vorontsov Continues Visit to Tehran

Meets With Velayati

LD2005135889 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—The Soviet first deputy foreign minister expressed hope the upcoming visit to Moscow of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would help upgrade mutual ties to a level "suitable to the dignity" of the two neighboring states.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday, Yuliy Vorontsov also accused foreign forces led by the U.S. of interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country.

"This is in violation of the Geneva agreement and would only lead to further bloodshed in Afghanistan," he said.

The Soviet official reiterated "the Afghan people are quite free to decide on their fate."

Velayati replied: "We have adopted an unchangeable stance on non- interference of foreigners in Afghanistan's internal affairs...and we still stick to this stance."

Voicing opposition to any kind of foreign intervention in Afghanistan, Velayati reaffirmed Iran's support for the formation of a Muslim, non-aligned and independent government in Kabul.

He also termed recently concluded visit to Tehran of a Soviet economic delegation led by Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev as "fruitful."

Vorontsov, who is also Soviet ambassador to Kabul, arrived here on Thursday. On Friday, he visited historical monuments in the central city of Esfahan.

Meets With President Khamene'i

LD2105120889 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—It was believed Majlis Speaker 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union would have a "deep impact" on Tehran-Moscow ties, President 'Ali Khamene'i said.

Khamene'i made the remark in a meeting with visiting Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov Sunday [21 May].

Vorontsov said the Soviet leadership was pleased with the expansion of mutual ties which would be strengthened further with Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit planned next month.

On Afghanistan, the president said Iran always opposed foreign forces in Afghanistan and believed the Afghan Muslim nation should run their affairs themselves.

Iran supports an Islamic, independent and non-aligned Afghanistan, he added.

Vorontsov said Soviet forces were not in Afghanistan at present but "thousands of forces affiliated to the U.S. were causing bloodshed there."

The Soviet official arrived here Thursday. He has also met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Cited on Talks With Mujahidin

LD2105181589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] An interview with the Soviet first deputy minister is the hour's first news report:

Mr Yuliy Vorontsov, the Soviet first deputy minister and that country's ambassador to Kabul, left Tehran for Moscow this afternoon at the end of his 4-day trip to our country. Before departing, he said in an interview with IRNA: There are no limitations in the path of cooperation between the two neighboring countries. We can assist each other in an effective way toward economic expansion and we can cooperate in the resolution of very important political and international problems; such problems include the issue of Afghanistan, the defense of the two countries' sovereignty, and the strengthening of military forces.

Mr Yuliy Vorontsov said, in my meetings, I discussed in detail Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's forthcoming trip to the Soviet Union, which will be of great importance from our point of view, and the grounds for mutual cooperation were examined.

About his meetings with the leaders of the eight-party coalition of Afghan mujahidin resident in Iran, he said: Due to the absence of Soviet forces and the presence of other foreign forces, such as the military units of Pakistan and thousands of Arab volunteers, a new situation has been created in Afghanistan and we are witnessing the interference of foreign forces in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. We will continue our consultations with Iran in the future. He said of his meeting with the leaders of the eight-party coalition: We had a long and very good meeting with the eight-party coalition's spokesman and his colleagues. We have spoken to them previously. However, since the departure of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, this was the first time we have held talks with the leaders of the eight-party coalition. The atmosphere of the meeting and its quality differed from before. The spokesman of the coalition opposed foreign intervention in the domestic affairs of Afghanistan and he expressed the desire for a wide-ranging and broad government to be established in Afghanistan. Our position is exactly the same. I have invited the leaders of the eight-party coalition to visit the Soviet Union and they said that they would think about the timing of that trip.

In response to the question as to whether they had accepted the formation of a government comprised of all parties, including the Communist Party of Afghanistan, the Soviet first deputy minister said: In Afghanistan there is no Communist Party; that party is not even Marxist. The party ruling Afghanistan is nationalist, and in our view, is a national party that defends the independence of the country. The eight-party coalition has not had a clear stance on that subject and we will speak with them about that in the future.

About UN Resolution 598 and the continuation of the paece talks he said: Of course we do not want the current talks to have no result. The Soviet Union is prepared to help, as much as possible, toward progress in the Iran-Iraq negotiations and we are prepared to undertake a special effort in that regard.

It was asked of Mr Vorontsov: The Soviet Union was once considered to be a strong ally for liberation movements and struggling nations. Why have the Soviet leaders now set aside the program of defending

oppressed nations, who fight against imperialism and Zionism, especially the struggling Palestinian nation, and adopted a clear silence in the face of imperialist crimes? He replied, I cannot accept that total silence exists in that connection. We support the struggle of the Palestinian nation and the current uprising in Palestine, and in various international and political actions we participate in the support for the Palestinian people.

In response to the question that, in view of the fact that the revolutionary nation of Iran is especially sensitive to the Palestinian issue, could he please say what was the nature of the condemnation by the Soviet Union of the Zionist regime, the Soviet first deputy said that condemnation is expressed in an open manner.

New Acting Commerce Minister Appointed
LD2105131989 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Mojataba Khosrow-Taj was appointed acting commerce minister by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today, replacing 'Abd al-Hoseyn Vahaji.

Khosrow-Taj previously served as deputy for foreign trade, a post held since 1983.

Vahaji was appointed acting minister last September, when the Majlis dismissed other appointments for the post.

Navy Commander Interviewed on Gulf Maneuvers
LD2005183489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 20 May 89

[From "Holy Defense" program]

[Excerpts] As you know, the "Zolfiqar-4" maneuvers that had started on Sunday, 7 May in the warm waters of the Persian Gulf with the participation of the three Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], ended on Thursday, 11 May with complete success, after the completion of several stages.

According to the report recieved from the deck of the command ship "Khark," in these maneuvers, all of the naval and Air Forces of the IRI Armed Forces were involved, including heavy destroyer formations, frigate formations, (Pasco) Navy formations, the rocket-launcher formation of small warships, the Navy's heavy logistic flotilla, the Navy's light logistic flotilla, the amphibious forces, fast gunboats, the hovercraft squadron, (Nimrod) helicopter squadron, antisubmarine warfare helicopter squadron, antisurface ship helicopter squadron, amphibious units, special operation marines, paratroopers, and frogmen.

According to the report of the command ship "Khark," in addition to the naval units and the military personnel of the Ground Forces, C-130 cargo aircraft and fighter bombers of the Air Force and the paratroopers of the Havaniruz [army aviation], Chinook helicopters, and amphibious tanks of the IRI Ground Forces were extensively and actively involved in this joint maneuver. [passage omitted]

In this part of the program we will listen to the remarks of the IRI Navy commander [Commodore Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan].

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings, dear listeners. At the end of our visit to the blue waters of the Persian Gulf for the past few days, we are being received by the commander of the IRI Navy. We ask him to give us a brief assessment of the way the "Zolfiqar-4" maneuvers were conducted.

[Malekzadegan] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank God Almighty for giving his blessing to us in performing these great maneuvers, more extensive than any ever before carried out in the history of the Navy, amid sensitive conditions and good weather. Most important of all, we concluded the maneuvers with no casualties, or financial or equipment losses. We thank God for these blessings.

The "Zolfiqar-4" maneuvers were more extensive than past maneuvers. The extent of the naval, air, and ground contingents distinguish it from past maneuvers. We used far more naval units than in the "Zolfiqar-3" maneuvers, totaling more than 30 units. There were our heavy naval units, the heavy destroyers "Babr" and "Palang;" light frigates like the "Alborz" and the "Alvand;" small missile-firing craft, Navy rocket-launcher vessels, the "Peykan," all logistics ships, fleet supply vessels, attack cargo ships, small gunboats, and lastly the special operations unit, consisting of fast combat craft—all were involved.

That was in the naval contingent. In the naval air contingent, in Regions 1 and 2 different types of helicopters, such as the SH antiship and patrol helicopters; our minesweeping helicopters, the RH ones, which carried out minesweeping operations in these maneuvers; and the AB antisurface helicopters were extensively used. In addition, there is a special unit of the ground contingent, a marine brigade, which carried out amphibious operations, and airborne gunships were used.

This was the extent to which we used the units of the Navy. The stations that we set up for these operations were in the middle region of the Persian Gulf. The previous exercises did not have this particular aspect. We used to command the operations from one station, but in this maneuver we had three operational stations. With the extent and the volume of the coordination that had to be done, it was necessary to set up these three stations. One was on one of the islands; one was in a port, and one was the command ship itself.

The particular, uniqueness of this maneuver was the participation of the air units of the Air Force—their fighters—and their coordinated operations with the Navy in bombing coastal areas and in joining naval units in patrol and reconnaissance operations. In the Ground Forces section, there was the participation of the airborne brigade, their paratroopers, one of their [word indistinct] units, personnel carriers for landing armor and personnel in chosen coasts—this was a unique feature which did not exist in the previous maneuvers.

Apart from that, there was command and control that we had not capitalized on so much in previous maneuvers. We wanted to find out in general how capable we are to control all three of these forces from one station in a naval battle. This was the unique feature of these maneuvers and it was completed very successfully without any disorder in the previously planned programs.

Apart from these things, we strengthened ourselves and assessed our weak and strong points in certain scenarios regarding the clashes we had had with the Americans in order to rectify those weak points and strengthen ourselves and also to increase other aspects of our defense capabilities. We made particular plans, and these maneuvers were performed in the same region where we clashed with the Americans throughout the 5 or 6 days of the maneuvers. [passage omitted]

Our principal aim is, in the first stage, to use the country's capabilities and the forces, the Navy itself, to better equip ourselves. But also, we are not against using and buying the existing technology around the world in order to increase our defense capabilities. We think we will use the advanced world technology as much as necessary and as much as appropriate, and we will give our units as much advanced technology as possible, in order to be able, God willing, to make our strong force even stronger. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meshkini Cited on Abolishment of Premiership

LD2005191389 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 20 May 89

["Premier's Post Likely To Be Scrapped"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—The idea of scrapping the prime minister's post prevails other opinions in the Constitutional Amendment Council, Chairman Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, said Friday.

At the Qom Friday prayer, he disclosed that some opine that the presidential post should be a formality, while the remaining favour the current situation. "But the majority is for scrapping of the premiership," he added.

The proposed amendments to the Constitution call for fixing the number of Majlis (parliament) deputies at 270, with the rise in their number according to the population increase.

The judicial branch will also be run by a single person instead of the current council, and the person concerned would be appointed by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Meshkini said.

President 'Ali Khamene'i on Friday had also stressed that the executive branch should be administered by one person under the supervision of the Majlis and people. He is one of the members of the Constitution Amendment Council.

Kho'iniha Interviewed on Judiciary, Constitution

NC2005123789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1543 GMT 19 May 89

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Kho'iniha, prosecutor general and member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, by unidentified Vision of Iran correspondent on the "Weekly Report" program in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kho'iniha] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As regards the judiciary, we do not have more than one problem in general. However, it is linked to the Constitution. The problem is the management of the judiciary, which is in the form of a council. Even in other executive organizations such management cannot be very effective. Management by council has numerous problems, including the dilution of responsibility. In a managerial council it is difficult to ascertain who is responsible for its virtues or vices. One does not know who is to be termed good or what measures should be adopted for the improvement of (?individuals).

The second problem is that work moves ahead very slowly and with loss of time. Instead of one person being responsible for making decisions, a group of persons must convene a meeting and debate the issue, and they may or may not reach a decision at that time. A vast organization such as the judiciary demands quick decisions on the part of management.

Third, on principle, when management takes the form of a council, the structure of the organization becomes such that it is not clear as to whom one should approach for resolving problems; that is, who is to be responsible and who is answerable. The departments become ambivalent where administration is in the hands of a council and not an individual and the council is not aware of what kind of planning should be undertaken and what objectives...[changes thought] The objectives are of course clear, but what methods should be implemented and in what manner. Hence, if all these are located in one place, the dissipation of effort and responsibility within a department resulting from the fact that one does not know whom to work with, what the policy is, and what modus operandi should be adopted, will be prevented. Every individual naturally has a different way of tackling issues or a different approach. [passage omitted]

Other organizations that are outside the judiciary also do not know with whom they are dealing. For example, the executive does not know whom in the judiciary to approach on the various problems. The Islamic Majlis did not know who was really responsible for what was good or bad and whom to ask if there was a problem.

In general, the problems of the judiciary stemmed from the council form of management. Therefore, the sole amendment—and it is a major one—which we proposed to the council for the reappraisal of the Constitution, after a decade of experience, was to change the management of the judiciary from a council to a centralized form. Formerly it was also in a centralized form. However, in the past 10 years; that is, ever since the compilation of the Constitution was undertaken, the formulators were in the grip of a dread in their hearts and minds, thinking that any centralization of management would be synonymous with a sort of egocentric command, in other words, a dictatorship or despotic form of government. Because of this apprehension they thought the only solution lay in transforming the centralized management into a council.

The experience of the past 10 years has proved that this does not resolve problems but increases them. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You referred to the relation between the judiciary and the executive. In view of the fact that safeguarding the judiciary's independence can serve as a guarantee for preventing the establishment of despotism in the country, what would you suggest to preserve this independence, as well as to eliminate the weaknesses stemming from the lack of coordination with the executive that we have witnessed until now?

[Kho'iniha] One of the responsibilities of the judiciary is the preservation of the rights of the various segments of society and of individuals with regard to one another. The other duty is the protection of the rights of the government and the people, in matters related to both. [passage omitted]

As the judiciary is not an organization segregated from the system, it should maintain links and coordination with the other branches of the government; that is, the legislative and executive branches.

Paper Cited on Roles of Presidency, Premiership

LD2005065589 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—An Iranian daily today suggested that a supervising power was needed to avoid the accumulation of power in the man who takes the chief executive's seat.

The TEHRAN TIMES referred to the possible omission of premiership by the Council for Constitutional Revisions and centralisation of power in the president and maintained that it may potentially threaten democratic norms.

The daily said under the present Constitution, the executive power had a bifurcate system of management. The president, although chosen by the people and theoretically the head of the executive power, virtually had no control over the executive.

The prime minister also faced constitutional constraints as he was not totally free to select his ministers, said the daily.

Seemingly, the daily added, most council members favoured the omission of the premiership as the president was elected through a direct public vote so he could fully hold the reins of the executive branch.

The decision to eliminate the premiership may solve the problem of management weakness and lack of decisiveness but only for a short time, the daily suggested.

It warned if the council failed to solve the issue of a monitoring power to oversee the executive branch's performance, the latter like in most Third World countries, will, probably in a short while, swallow up the other two branches.

The English [language] daily regarded the view that people would not vote a dictator president to office for a second term as simplistic.

TEHRAN TIMES mentioned the situation in Middle Eastern countries where it said no democratic norms were observed "although presidents are ostensibly voted to office." Only one or two candidates ran for the elections only for formality's sake, it said.

The daily warned that it would be a big mistake to leave such checks and balance to the people alone.

President 'Accountable' if Premiership Abolished

LD2105124989 Tehran IRNA in English 1025 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The daily ABRAR said today that in case the post of premiership is removed from the Constitution, the president must be held accountable to the Majlis.

"In this case, that is the prime minister is omitted, the president must apparently be in a answerable position."

The ABRAR editorial noted that under the present constitution which is under review, the prime minister is responsible before the Majlis for whatever actions taken by ministers.

However, the law does not explicitly elaborate about the right to censure the president or to make him respond to questions in the Majlis.

"Now if the administration of the state is to be concentrated in the presidency, a need is felt for an explicit article be brought into the Constitution for this purpose (right of censure)."

There would be two choices for the Constitutional Review Council to consider. First that each minister should be responsible before the Majlis, or the president as head of the executive branch should be held accountable.

Tehran TV Carries Reappraisal Council Discussions

NC1905180189 [Editorial Report] Tehran television service in Persian at 1825 GMT on 18 May carries a 76-minute video report on the deliberations of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution at its 17 May session. The announcer says that reports of earlier sessions will also be presented from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on other dates.

The session begins with a religious recitation, after which an unidentified speaker (later referred to as 'Amid Zanjani) approaches the rostrum and says: "The report from the commission for the reappraisal of issues pertaining to centralization in the Judiciary's management as submitted to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution is being presented."

He then reads out Articles 154, 156, 157, and 158 of the Constitution and says that certain amendments were approved. He says that Article 156, the first article of Part 11 of the Constitution remains unchanged as before. He adds that this is because this article "does not contain anything on the issue of centralization of judicial management." He reads aloud Article 157 which stipulates that "a supreme judicial council shall be formed as the highest judicial authority." He says that Articles 157 and 158 have been annulled by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution and these have been deleted from the Constitution as they are "redundant with regard to the issue being discussed by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, that is, the issue of the centralization of the Judiciary."

He says that certain qualifications for the head of the judicial council were also discussed and one of these was that he should be a "mojtahed" or a qualified jurist. He then asks if people wish to speak in favor of or against the amendments. An unidentified speaker says that reasons should be given for every amendment that is approved. Hashemi-Rafsanjani says that as soon as the reasons are published, they will be distributed.

Another unidentified speaker says that the condition that the person should be a mojtahed should not be compulsory, as the head of the judiciary council should have managerial skills and will not be involved in making judicial decisions. "One who is an efficient administrator can do the job." The issue is debated, with arguments from the floor, as to whether every judge is efficient in administrative skills or whether every manager has to be a qualified judge.

Mr Bayat then takes the podium and says that we have to be clear about centralization, which does not only mean centralizing management in one individual, but there can also be centralizing within a council if there is proper division of tasks.

TEHRAN TIMES on Constitutional Amendment

LD2205095589 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—In case of keeping the post of premiership, the problem of scattered and unconcentrated administration system will remain in the executive body, said an Iranian daily.

The TEHRAN TIMES said an air of disagreement seemed to prevail over the constitutional revision council on two proposals on the centralisation of the executive branch.

The daily commented that the first proposal calling for the elimination of the post of premiership was more supported. However it had not received necessary majority of approval.

"In this scheme the president will be the powerful head of the executive body of the republic and will enjoy enchanced powers. He will probably also head the Expediency Council as well as double as acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. Selecting his cabinet, the president will ask for a vote of confidence for them from the Majlis."

The daily added the legislature would supervise the executive body through the Majlis' right of impeachment of the cabinet. Thus "the spirit of democracy is preserved" in the first proposal, said the daily.

In the second proposal, the president would play a purely "titular role with no executive capability" and Majlis deputies would introduce a prime minister, with special powers in running the executive branch.

On the weak points of this proposal, the daily said a council-based management so far had not had a positive performance in the country. "This is the main flaw," it said.

In this case the Majlis would ask the premier of their choice "to enact within the framework of policies they will define for him." Therefore the problem of a scattered and unconcentrated administration system would still remain in the executive body.

Besides, it said, the views of the people come into play only indirectly, "which does not seem a very democratic process."

No one doubts the necessity of the 'surgery' in the executive power as its bifurcate nature has hampered the execution of law, TEHRAN TIMES said.

Yet with influential supporters such as Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, President 'Ali Khamene'i, and Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini, head of the Constitutional Revision Council, the first proposal seems to get "the nod from the majority of council members," it concluded.

Editorial Examines Reconstruction Policy

NC2105114989 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 May pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Country's Reconstruction Policy—A Basis for Multilateral Growth"]

[Text] The reconstruction policy and priorities formulated by the Supreme Council for Reconstruction have been conveyed to the government following approval by the imam of the nation, and the government may now embark on the policy of reconstruction taking into consideration these priorities.

The Supreme Council for Reconstruction, which is comprised of the three branches of government, the prime minister, and the ministers pertaining to each department of the country's reconstruction, has, after 5 months of deliberations and effort on the part of its various committees of experts, been able to have its reconstruction policies and priorities approved.

They will in fact be incorporated in the first development and economic plan of the country, which has become official after being presented to the government. Now it is for the decisionmaking bodies, ministries, and other government organizations to formulate their program for implementation within this specified framework.

The announcement of the country's reconstruction policies and priorities is an important and fundamental step in clarifying the framework for the country's planning. Now that the priorities have been made clear, the government as well as the decisionmaking centers can make decisions and act with greater confidence and initiative. What is being termed the policies and priorities for the country's reconstruction is in fact the foundation for the Islamic Republic's course toward reconstruction that it will tread in the next 5 years. In this period strong trends such as "decentralization," "people's participation," and reaping of benefits from all advantageous and effective levers will manifest themselves for the attainment of the goals of the Islamic Republic's system.

The compilation and ratification of these policies are a major success for the Islamic Republic's system at this special juncture. What is more important, however, is that within this infrastructure of policies, appropriate planning will take place and the country's potential, especially the manpower, will be used to the optimum and in the best way possible.

Thus, we shall witness the attainment of this plan's goals. The Islamic Republic of Iran's system will pass through the various stages of a multifaceted blossoming and realize the specified objectives.

Nepal

Spokesman Denies Expatriate Indians Mistreated

BK2005152189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 20 May 89

[Excerpts] Kathmandu, May 20 (AFP)—Nepal on Saturday [20 May] dismissed as "misleading and false" charges by the Indian press and government that expatriate Indians in this country had been ill-treated.

Chief government spokesman Radhye Shyam Bista said the charges were "misleading and false."

He added that the allegations were "so serious in nature... that if this persists, the Nepalese Government may be forced to have the matter fully investigated by the United Nations secretary general or by the U.N. Human Rights Commission."

Mr. Bista said the Indian Government should take up the matter with these bodies if "it seriously feels that the human rights of the citizens of India have been violated in Nepal.

"Failing this, the Nepalese Government would use its option to invite third country representatives of the international mass media, news agencies, news magazines, television and radio to visit Nepal for a first-hand, on the spot observation of the situation," Mr. Bista added. [passage omitted]

India earlier this month expressed concern over what it described as "increasing discrimination" against the employment of expatriate Indians in Nepal.

An Indian Government official said this attitude towards Indians violated a 1950 Indo-Nepal treaty of peace and friendship. The treaty permitted Indians and Nepalis to take up jobs in either country free of regulations normally applicable to foreigners.

Mr. Bista had on Wednesday denied India's claim that a work permit system served to harass Indians in Nepal, saying the system applied to only three of Nepal's 75 districts.

Former Foreign Minister Released on Bail

BK2005032889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The president of the human rights organization of Nepal and the country's former finance and foreign minister, Mr Rishikesh Shaha, who was arrested in Kathmandu yesterday morning has been released. Our Kathmandu correspondent, Sushil Chopra, reports that Mr Shaha was released on bail of 2,000 rupees by a court. He was arrested for making critical remarks against the Government of Nepal and his present relations with India.

Pakistan

U.S. To Supply 60 F-16 Fighter Bombers 'Soon'

BK2205031089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Pakistan is to get 60 F-16 fighter bomber aircraft from the United States soon. Estimated to cost about $630 million, these planes will be supplied to Pakistan on a special credit facility over a period of 2 years.

According to official sources in Islamabad, a deal to this effect is expected to be finalized during the Pakistan prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto's, visit to Washington next month. It has already been approved in principle by the U.S. Congress as part of the current $4.02 billion economic and military aid package to Islamabad. The United States had already supplied Pakistan with 40 F-16 fighter aircraft.

Bhutto: Country Ready To Face Kabul Threat

BK2105084089 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 May 89

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has said the new budget will be anti-inflationary and will not hit the middle or lower middle classes and common man. She was talking to newsmen in Islamabad this morning after inaugurating the symposium on the promotion of foreign investment in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

About the threat by the Kabul regime for attack on Pakistani territory, the prime minister said we are ready to face any threat. These threats are not new, and we will take all measures to prevent attacks on our territory.

On recognition of the interim Afghan government by Pakistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto referred to certain international standards that must be fulfilled before recognition. Short of recognition, Pakistan has done everything and welcomed the interim government of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Spokesman: Threat 'Very Serious'

BK2105144289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Pakistan has drawn the world community's attention to the supply of destructive weapons, such as SS-1 and Scud missiles, to the Kabul regime. As the Kabul regime is becoming increasingly confused, it is using every means against the mujahidin in order to safeguard its own existence. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen this afternoon that the terrified administration can do nothing in its bewilderment.

Commenting on the latest threat by Dr Najibullah to unleash rockets, the spokesman said that there are no mujahidin bases in Pakistan; there are only refugee camps. If the Kabul regime brazenly threatens to fire rockets on the tent villages of refugees, then that would constitute a violation of the Geneva accords. The spokesman said that Pakistan considers the threat a very serious incident and will take all necessary steps to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The spokesman again rejected the Kabul regime's allegation that Pakistani troops are being sent to Afghanistan, terming such allegations baseless.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan has always supported a solution to the Afghanistan issue which is acceptable to the Afghan people and for which peaceful and non-military measures are adopted. The Kabul regime's proposals are unacceptable to all sections of the Afghan people, he added.

Mujahidin Faction To Fight Until Regime Ended

BK2005025089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The leader of the Iran-based 8 party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin, Karim Halimi, has said that they will continue their fight until the Kabul regime is ended. Talking to newsmen in Peshawar, he said no ideological difference exists between the Afghans based in Peshawar and Tehran, because both are struggling for the establishment of an Islamic system in Afghanistan. He said differences exist between the two groups on the future government in Afghanistan, but these differences will be settled after the talks between the two groups.

Sri Lanka

2 Rival Tamil Groups Battle in North; 51 Killed

BK2205063689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Colombo, May 22 (AFP)—At least 51 guerrillas were killed in a fierce gunbattle between two rival Tamil militant groups in Sri Lanka's Northern Province, a military spokesman here said Monday.

Fighting between the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) broke out in Ullukulama village late Sunday, the spokesman said.

He said 40 of the victims were PLOTE cadres while at least 11 Tiger rebels died.

Sri Lankan military officials in the area contacted by telephone said LTTE fighters had stormed the PLOTE camp housing about 150 cadres.

Officials here said they feared PLOTE cadres would be attacked because of their anti-LTTE stance. The LTTE is known to have killed hundreds of its rival militants in a bid to lead the separatist campaign in the past six years.

The LTTE is one of six Tamil militant groups which initially accepted a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, but later repudiated, prompting a major Indian Army offensive to disarm the group.

The PLOTE has accepted the peace pact with reservations and was also involved in the failed November 3 coup bid in the neighbouring Maldives.

Delhi Reports Violence

BK2205111489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 51 people are feared killed in a clash between two Tamil groups. First reports reaching Colombo say the clash which occurred yesterday at Ullukulam in Vavuniya District has taken toll of 40 members of PLOTE—People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam—and 11 members of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. Further details of the incident are awaited.

In another incident, 8 kilometers northwest of Vavuniya town, a PKF [peacekeeping force] party was ambushed and four militants killed when the PKF returned fire. Three militants were also injured. There was, however, no casualty on the PKF side.

Communique Issued on Indian Embassy Statement

BK1905115589 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] The attention of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been drawn to a news release issued by the Indian High Commission and appearing in yesterday's newspapers and relayed over the Sri Lanka Brodcasting Corporation. This news release had been issued in response to the press release issued by the Sri Lanka Government on the ongoing talks with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. The high commissioner of India had stated that in the Sri Lanka Government's press release one party to the talks has cast unwarranted aspersions on the role and functions of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] in Sri Lanka.

A communique issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says: It must be recalled that in making their observations on the role and functions of the IPKF, the LTTE has been responding to the recent press interview given by the high commissioner of India. The LTTE came for discussion at the invitation of the Sri Lankan Government. It is significant that this is the first time that the LTTE has entered into any discussions directly with the government. It is the responsibility of the government to keep the people informed of the progress of these deliberations. These joint press releases must necessarily reflect a totality of the deliberations.

The communique further says: The government is presently engaged in sensitive discussions with the LTTE on several issues in an effort to arriving at solutions acceptable to all.

LTTE Regrets Statement

BK1905121389 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] It is unfortunate that the Indian High Commission [Embassy] should have chosen this very moment to publicly express its reservations on some of the representations made by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] to the government delegation. The government hopes that the ongoing discussions with the LTTE could be continued to a fruitful conclusion in atmosphere that is free of controversy.

At the talks yesterday, the LTTE delegation said that there seems to be a misunderstanding in certain quarters about their mission. They reiterated that they were in Colombo to seek an end to the violence which is devastating the north and the east and is causing untold hardships to the people. The purpose of their mission is to seek a negotiated political settlement which will take into consideration the aspirations and hopes of the Tamil-speaking people. They said they do not want to use this forum for purposes of propaganda or to create a rift between Sri Lanka and India.

According to a communique by the Presidential Secretariate they [LTTE] emphasized that they were on a noble mission and in the fulfillment of this mission they do not want to cause any form of embarrassment to Sri Lanka. They see two roles for the Government of Sri Lanka. One is to negotiate with the LTTE and the other to ensure that justice is done and a settlement is reached that is acceptable to all. They said that both parties—Sri Lanka and the LTTE—are talking without any preconditions with one determined goal and that is to achieve peace and security for the north and east in consultation with the people of these two provinces. The talks are continuing.

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